

CHINA (AFP) — The Chinese-made watch, which will be put on an auction here next week, is a newspaper here reported. The watch was made in 1955 in the first Chinese watch factory. Within three years, they had a domestic market, which was then dominated by the Shanghai International Commodities Exchange Centre, which was the only place to buy and sell the watches. The proceeds would be donated to charity.

British Dalmatian club votes no copies for Disney

LONDON (AFP) — The members of British Dalmatian Club have come against helping Disney to produce a remake of the successful film [10] Dalmatians. The Times reported that after four hours of heated discussion, club members in Warwick, central England, voted 10 to 2 to refuse to cooperate with the company. However, the club was not regarded as being opposed to secure a two-figure sum. Filming a Disney film in London and close in the role of a De Vil, the Times said, Disney placed an agreement for Dalmatians in the British Dalmatian Club. Tuesday and took to reassure breeders about how the breed could be treated. The agreement went into detail about the conditions which Disney intended to use for its animals but the company has refused to silence its publicity. Greeting, owner of Britain's biggest dog kennels, said the breeders feared the remake would cause a reputation of the breed as a dangerous animal. The film caused a demand for Dalmatians, many of which were abandoned once the film was down to full size. The breeders are now hot pot — a serious delicacy.

These hot pot — a serious delicacy

CHINA (R) — It's a delicacy. About 100 people were injured when a hot pot restaurant in Sichuan, capital of China's southwestern province, exploded on August 20 due to a leak. The Guang Daily said Monday that more than 100 people were injured in an explosion at a hot pot restaurant in Sichuan, where residents like peppery food.

Chinese antique smugglers get stiff penalties

CHINA (AFP) — Some 100 people in the central Chinese province of Shanxi have been convicted of smuggling cultural relics, with some sentenced to life in prison. The mass conviction was coincided with a provincial conference in Taiyuan, to discuss measures to counter the growing black market in antiquities.

Libya ignores Arab mediation efforts
CAIRO (R) — A Libyan minister brushed aside on Tuesday attempts by Arab leaders to stop the deportation of thousands of Palestinians and insisted they were leaving of their own free will. Minister of Unity Affairs Jomaa Al Fezzani told reporters after an hour of talks with Arab League Secretary-General Esnat Abdul Meguid that other countries need not interfere. Asked about Libya's response to calls from both Arab League and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to halt the expulsions, Mr. Fezzani said: "We appreciate Mubarak's efforts and those of the secretary-general but we think the Palestinian issue is their own, they have the freedom to do what they will." Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi says the Palestinians are responding to his call that they go home to show the world that the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) peace deal with Israel has failed and has not made them masters of their fate. "The Palestinians now know who is working for their return and for the liberation of their land and who squanders it and calls for its settlement (by Israelis)," said a statement on Tuesday by the Libyan parliament, carried by the official news agency JANA.

Kabariti heads for league meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on Tuesday left for Cairo to take part in the Arab League's 104th session which begins Wednesday. In a departure statement, Mr. Kabariti said Arab foreign ministers taking part in the meetings will discuss the final draft of the Arab Higher Court of Justice, the first draft of the Arab code of honour and a proposal to amend the Charter of Arab League to allow for taking decisions by majority of votes rather than by consensus. Mr. Kabariti said he will meet his counterparts, including the Kuwaiti foreign minister, on the sidelines of the Arab League meetings, and voiced hope that his meetings will contribute to rebuilding confidence among Arab countries and laying down solid foundations for Arab reconciliation. Mr. Kabariti also stressed the importance of a meeting that will be held Thursday at the Algerian foreign minister's residence in Cairo to coordinate Arab stands at the European Union's conference in Barcelona in November.

Iraq pardons all petty Arab criminals

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq has pardoned all Arab nationals jailed for petty criminal offences and will set them free immediately, the official agency INA said Tuesday. The amnesty, which does not apply to convicted murderers, mainly affects Egyptians, Sudanese, Palestinians and Jordanians jailed for theft, fraud and illegal residency, according to a decree from Iraq's highest authority the Revolutionary Command Council. "The prisoners will be set free immediately so long as they are not implicated in other crimes or offences," said the decree, carried by INA. It did not say how many prisoners will be freed under the amnesty.

Israel deploys missile launcher

RISHON LEZION, Israel (AP) — The Israeli army introduced the U.S.-made multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) into its artillery forces Tuesday. The \$400 million batteries arrived about three months ago. Israeli troops displayed the mobile units to journalists and fired rounds into the sea. "This is an era of revolution for the artillery corps," said Brigadier General Shukla Dorfman. "The MLRS fires a large amount of explosive that causes maximum casualties in the minimum amount of time." The missile system is intended to supplement the army's mobile cannons, which are the bulk of its limited artillery. "The U.S. commitment to Israel's defence as it takes risks for peace is as strong as ever, as this new system illustrates," said U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk, who attended the ceremony.

France to try Libyans in absentia

PARIS (R) — France will try in absentia four Libyans, including Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's brother-in-law, in connection with the bombing of a French airliner that killed 171 people, a lawyer for the victims said on Tuesday. Francis Spizner said after meeting Magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere, who heads the probe into the 1989 bombing of UTA Flight 772 over Niger, that the trial was expected to start in October 1996 before a Paris criminal court. Mr. Spizner, lawyer for SOS-Antentats, a group representing victims of terrorism, was joined at the meeting by a disaster's sixth anniversary — by relatives of those killed in the bombing. Among the four suspects, named in international arrest warrants but whom Libya refuses to turn over to French justice, is Abdullah Senoussi, Colonel Qadhafi's brother-in-law.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

GCC and Yemen to attend MENA summit in Amman

Arab financial institutions also to participate

DUBAI (Agencies) — The six Gulf Arab states and Yemen will take part along with Israel in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman next month, officials in the Gulf said Tuesday. Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa said in the Saudi capital Riyadh that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states "have decided to coordinate their positions to ensure the summit's success."

Prince Saud to visit Jordan next month

RIYADH (Petra) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said Tuesday he would be travelling to Jordan in October for the first time since the Gulf crisis erupted in August 1990 creating a rift in Arab relations. He said he will visit Amman next month after he returns from New York where he will take part in the U.N. General assembly meetings.

conclusion of a Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) ministerial meeting in Riyadh, the Saudi minister said steps taken to improve ties were proceeding well and that a Saudi ambassador to Jordan will head for Amman soon.

He said he will visit Amman next month after he returns from New York where he will take part in the U.N. General assembly meetings.

Libya and Iran will not take part although Lebanese businessmen will be there privately, he added.

Syria and Lebanon refuse to consider joint projects with Israel before achieving some progress in their bilateral talks with the Jewish state.

"We would like to see roughly 30 businessmen from each of the GCC countries in Amman," said Mr. Sicre.

He said nearly 35 businessmen have already booked their places at the forum from Qatar.

Mr. Sicre, who is touring the GCC countries to persuade business leaders to take part in the forum, said the WEF wanted to avoid a repetition of the Casablanca meeting, which he branded a

"political meeting."

"The next meeting will not be Casablanca II but Amman I, a business and commerce meeting."

The GCC, in a formal statement after the Riyadh meeting, called for increased international pressure to make Iraq comply with U.N. demands that it dismantle its major weapons systems.

"The council calls on all international groups for pressure on the Iraqi government until it proves its peaceful intentions and implements all of the articles of the U.N. resolutions..."

"GCC foreign ministers said in the statement. The foreign ministers' two days of talks in Riyadh focused on internal instability in

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Hijacked Iranian plane lands in Israel

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The hijacked Iranian plane that ended up in southern Israel on Tuesday had asked Jordan for permission to land but the authorities flatly refused the request.

A Jordanian aviation official denied there was any contact between the plane and the air traffic control at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA). "There was no contact at all between us and the plane," he said. "All we know is that the plane landed in Israel."

Some reports claimed that QAIA air traffic control purposely switched off all communication with the plane in order not to allow it to land in Jordan. However, there was no official comment on the issue.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin refused to allow the plane to land in Tel Aviv for fear that it may have hostile intentions. Instead, the plane, a Boeing 707, was allowed to land in Ovda air force base in the southern part of the Naqab desert after the pilot reported that it was running out of fuel.

"We are hijacked and we are in distressed conditions," Reuters quoted the pilot of the hijacked plane as saying. He then asked the control tower at Ovda for emergency landing guidance because he did not have maps.

It was not clear whether there were one or two hijackers, but soon after the plane landed safely, the hijackers, whose identities were not immediately known, surrendered peacefully to the Israeli army.

Israeli radio reported that the pilot and possibly some crew members were being questioned by Israeli officials.

The plane was hijacked while on a domestic flight from Iranian capital Tehran

to the Persian Gulf island of Kish. Initial reports said that some passengers on board the plane were injured, but soon after the plane landed there was no sign of casualties.

Israel Radio quoted the pilot as saying there were a total of 177 people on board.

Israel's Transport Minister Israel Kesser said: "The army declared a state of alert on all airports and the plane then landed."

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoting a civil aviation official, said the Kish control tower "suddenly lost all contact with the plane during a radio conversation with the aircraft's pilot."

It said 160 passengers and six crew members were aboard when the airliner took off from Tehran at 8:30 a.m. (0400 GMT) and had been scheduled to land in Kish at 10 a.m. (0530 GMT).

The plane belonged to the Iran's Kish Air but had been chartered by the army's airline company "Saha," said Radio Tehran.

Saha operates both military and civilian flights.

In November 1993 a Fokker Friendship operated by the Iranian oil ministry was hijacked to Basra in Iraq with 38 people on board.

The hijacker asked for asylum in Iraq and was accused by Tehran of belonging to the opposition Mujahideen-e-Khalq.

Later reports identified the hijacker as a disgruntled flight attendant armed with a gun.

The man, who was in his 30s, reportedly sought political asylum in the United States. He surrendered less than an hour after the Boeing 707 touched down at Ovda.

"One of the flight attendants was sick of being in Iran, prepared a pistol, hijacked the plane and forced the crew to come here," said Israeli's armed forces chief of staff, Amnon Shahak.

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His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday receives French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette (Petra photo)

France supports Middle East economic development, plans active role in Amman summit

De Charette signs updated cultural accord with Jordan, describes relations as unique

By P.V.Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said Tuesday his government was committed to supporting the economic development of the Middle East to consolidate the emerging state of peace in the region and described Jordan's role in the region as key to security and stability.

Addressing a press conference at the end of a 24-hour visit for talks on bilateral ties, the Middle East peace process, Iraq and the situation in former Yugoslavia as well as France's participation in next month's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit in Amman, Mr. De Charette also said France and Jordan were to begin negotiations soon on debt relief for the Kingdom.

Mr. De Charette, who held talks with His Majesty

King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and several other members of the Council of Ministers, also signed a new Franco-Jordanian cultural accord.

In comments at the press conference, the French minister said Paris believed that a formula had to be found to end the suffering of the Iraqi people straining under the impact of the five-year-old international sanctions on their country and called on Baghdad to meet its obligations under U.N. resolutions related to the Gulf crisis.

Mr. De Charette called on Israel and the Palestinians to work out "suitable solutions, while respecting the rights, priorities and concerns of each other," and conclude an agreement quickly on expanding Palestinian self-rule

to the West Bank.

He said he intended to visit Israel and the Palestinian territories soon to show French support for the peace negotiations.

The minister defended his country's decision to conduct nuclear tests in the South Pacific as a matter of national security. He said the number of tests and their timing was limited and noted that his country was committed to adopting a total moratorium on nuclear testing next year.

"France agrees to eliminating nuclear arms altogether," he said. "There are plenty of nuclear weapons in the world. Few of them are French and the bulk of the rest are in Ukraine, Russia and Asia. The rest is in the U.S."

"We hope that nuclear weapons will be eliminated," he added, "but we have to think about our security."

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Palestinians donate \$4m fund to PNA

AMMAN (R) — Leading Palestinian businessmen donated \$4 million to a fund to help the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) establish professionally run institutions, businessmen said on Tuesday. The decision was taken at a meeting last Thursday in Gaza between leading Palestinian-Jordanian investors and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and senior PNA members. The meeting was of a committee of Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen that includes members of the \$300 million Palestine Development and Investment Company (PADICO). Establishing the fund will help the committee get World Bank aid for institution building. The committee reviewed studies for several key projects — including an industrial park and free trade zone in the Jordan Valley and a private airline and tourism projects by the Dead Sea. Of the \$4 million, \$3 million was donated by businessmen Abdul Majid Shuman, chairman of Arab Bank, Said Khoury and Habib Sabbah. A fund to recruit Palestinians to help the PNA in managing its burgeoning institutions was proposed in the committee's first meeting last May in Amman.

Croats quit assault

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Croatia pulled out of fighting in northwest Bosnia under intense diplomatic pressure on Tuesday and U.N. peacekeepers said Bosnian Serb forces had dug in to defend their stronghold of Banja Luka.

Peacekeepers reported the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) was putting up stronger resistance to an offensive by allied Bosnian government and Croat forces which had pushed to within 50 kilometres of Banja Luka.

Western governments and the United Nations feared the fighting could wreck peace efforts led by U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, who was meeting the presidents of Croatia and Bosnia in Zagreb.

The confrontation in the northwest appeared not to have affected the withdrawal of Bosnian Serb siege guns from Sarajevo where the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) said it was satisfied with progress ahead of a 2200 GMT deadline on Wednesday.

The pullback removed the immediate threat of attack, but did not end the siege of the city.

Watching a convoy of tanks and heavy guns towed behind trucks rumble up the road through the Serb-held suburb of Semizovac north of the city of a Bosnian Serb officer with barely concealed rage declared: "One day I am sure these weapons will return to Sarajevo."

Under the U.S.-brokered deal, struck after the Bosnian Serbs suffered two weeks of NATO airstrikes, the Serbs are to pull back the majority of the heavy guns that have underpinned their 41-month siege of the city.

French peacekeepers say that in the last four days the Bosnian Serb army has removed just over 200 of the estimated 300-350 weapons that ringed the city before a NATO-U.N. ultimatum demanded their withdrawal.

Failure to comply by Wednesday's deadline carries with it the threat that NATO airstrikes will resume, though few expect to see alliance warplanes bombing the Serbs again.

"It's looking very good. Ninety per cent (odds that) air strikes are off," a U.N. official who requested anonymity said Tuesday.

The aim of the ultimatum was to get the main threat to the city out of range and avoid the horrific scenes of last month, when a single heavy mortar bomb killed 40 and wounded scores in the city centre, prompting the NATO action.

At the same time, efforts have focused on easing the siege of the city by opening routes into the capital that cross Bosnian Serb-held territory. Here too, there has been considerable success in the short-term.

Three routes have been opened to U.N. aid convoys escorted in and out of the city on three specified routes under heavy guard. Only a month ago, two of those routes were closed and on the third, interminable delays made the road next to useless, U.N. aid officials said.

A special commercial route across the U.N.-controlled airport has also been operating, allowing businesses, in the city to ferry in goods and supplies.

Tonnes of food have entered the city along all the roads, and markedly improving conditions though most people remain without electricity or running water. However, keeping the routes open remains the greatest test.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman meanwhile ordered his forces to stop all military action in northwest Bosnia after a blunt warning by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State

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Peres, Arafat study maps in intense bid for accord

Arafat protests Israeli maps

YASSER ARAFAT and his delegation walked out of talks with Israel on Tuesday, but an aide announced that negotiations would resume later in the evening. The protest occurred as the two sides struggled for a third day to resolve an impasse over the city of Hebron. Mr. Arafat left the talks in anger at about 9:50 p.m. (1850 GMT), sources close to the negotiations said. A half hour later, his spokesman Marwan Kanafani told reporters: "My president will go back to the negotiating table in two hours. Now we are talking it over with the other side to resolve the matter."

Mr. Kanafani said Mr. Arafat "was angry at maps presented on the redeployment of Israeli troops in Hebron. He considered that as a total capitulation to the Israeli occupation and refused to accept them."

Earlier delegates reported progress on the West Bank town of Hebron, the main stumbling block so far in negotiations.

Israel wants to keep its troops there, unlike in six other West Bank towns, to protect 400 Jewish settlers living among 120,000 Palestinians.

Israeli negotiators who asked to remain anonymous said the accord already 14 months delayed was 99 per cent complete. It has almost 400 pages, 80 of which relate to Hebron.

"There are still problems, but we are making progress," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters in occupied Jerusalem.

"I hope we are going to progress rapidly, but that can't be at the cost of the contents of the accord."

The two men broke for a pause Tuesday during the talks in a hotel at Taba on the

Egyptian Red Sea coast, but met later in the evening. Mr. Qouriea said the main issue was a division of the West Bank to include: — A zone including the Jewish settlements which will stay under Israeli military control; — Another zone, most of the Palestinian areas except Hebron, which will be completely controlled by the Palestinian police; and — A third intermediary zone under joint control.

Delegates said the Palestinians were trying to limit as much as possible the zone to be controlled by the Israeli army in order to leave no room for settlement expansion. And in turn they wanted to enlarge the Palestinian zone by including the surroundings of each of the main areas. "The atmosphere remains positive," said Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfur. But he stressed that apart

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Hebronites fear settlers will not leave their town

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (AFP) — Palestinians here are convinced Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat will bend to Israeli demands and allow Jewish settlers and soldiers to stay in the powderkeg town as part of a new self-rule deal.

"Hebron residents are not interested in the negotiations because they know in advance that the settlers and the army will stay," said jeweller Khalil Mreich.

"The settlers are eating up the town like a cancer," he added. His shop adjoins a Jewish school.

Ironmonger Zein Natshe predicted predicted the "negotiations over Hebron are destined to fail and the Jews will stay, like thorns in our throats."

Mr. Arafat is involved in talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in a bid to break the deadlock in talks to pin down an deal to extend Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank.

But Hebron where 400 Jews live among 120,000 Palestinians has proved a major stumbling block. It was in Hebron that a Jewish settler gunned down at least 30 Muslims at prayer in February 1994.

Israel is refusing to cede total security control to the Palestinians, unlike in six other West Bank towns, because of fears for the settlers' safety. But Mr. Arafat has demanded a complete army withdrawal ahead of elections to a self-rule council, although he has conceded it could be staggered.

Zuheir Ussieleh warned the current indifference in Hebron to the negotiations

could ignite swiftly, if the right fuse is lit.

"You'll see the reaction among the town's residents if the accord does not guarantee an evacuation of the settlers," he said grimly.

"There will be no peace if a single settler stays in Hebron."

Khaled Al Amayreh, a journalist close to the Islamic hardliners, said: "Arafat wants to control the West Bank by whatever means he can, even if that means delivering Hebron into the hands of the Israelis."

"The Jewish state knows this and is exploiting it to wrest concessions from the Palestinians."

But he said the residents "do not want to kill the settlers or throw them into the sea, we just want to see them removed from the heart of Hebron."

The tough stand taken by the Palestinian negotiating team so far was nothing "but a theatrical manoeuvre" which was designed to "dull Palestinian public opinion", Amayreh added.

Former teacher at Hebron University Abdul Alim Dana, now a member of the Palestine Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said: "I think the only alternative is to re-launch the intifada in Hebron to get the settlers evacuated."

The seven-year Palestinian uprising launched in December 1987 ended with the start of self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho in May 1994.



TAE KWON DO: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, president of the Higher Council of the Defensive Sports Federation, on Tuesday receives a six-dan tae kwon do certificate and a shield of the federation from Issa Rimoni, president of the Jordanian Tae Kwon Do Federation, in appreciation of his role in developing the sport in Jordan. The presentation came during a meeting the Crown Prince held with Jordanian tae kwon do athletes who participated in recent international events to praise their performance and urge them to continue training and improve their skills (Petra photo)

Cyprus soldiers' trial adjourned; defendant ill

LARNACA (R) — A Cyprus court adjourned a manslaughter trial on Tuesday after one of three British soldiers accused of killing a Danish tour guide was taken ill.

Justin Fowler, 27, has been ill for the past five days with a virus suffering from stomach cramps and vomiting.

The assizes court ordered a one-day adjournment at the request of defence lawyers.

Mr. Fowler, Alan Ford, 26, and Jeff Pernell, 23, all serving with the Royal Green Jackets at Dhekelia military base, have pleaded not guilty to charges of manslaughter, abduction and conspiracy to rape.

They are accused of bludgeoning tour guide Louise Jensen, 23, to death

with a shovel after a drinking binge on Sept. 13 last year.

Mr. Fowler appeared in court on Tuesday with a flushed face and stood up shakily at the dock when the judges entered the court, clutching his stomach with one hand and holding onto a wooden ramp with the other.

His lawyer Christos Pourgourides was incensed when the court ordered the hearing could continue without the defendant's presence and threatened to quit if the court insisted Tuesday's hearing should go ahead. The judges relented.

Tuesday's prosecution witness, police officer Christos Hadjithodoulou, is considered one of the most important witnesses by prosecution lawyers.

Appeal is filed against Filipina's death sentence

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The lawyer for a young Filipina maid facing execution in the United Arab Emirates for killing her Gulf Arab employer said he filed a notice of appeal on Tuesday.

Mohammad Al Amin, chief lawyer for 16-year-old Sarah Balabagan, told Reuters he lodged the appeal notice in the oasis town of Al 'Ain and planned to present its grounds in the coming days.

"I filed the notice of appeal. I just filed a notice. After studying the verdict I will give my reasons," he said.

Mr. Amin said the prosecutor had also lodged an appeal, as required by law, in order to set the process in motion.

An Islamic court on Saturday condemned Ms. Balabagan to death for the "premeditated" murder last year of Almas' Mohammad Al Baloushi.

It rejected her plea that she had stabbed him 34 times in self-defence after he raped her.

The verdict sparked rage among Filipinos and prompted an appeal for calm in the Philippines where bitterness still lingers over Singapore's execution of a Filipina maid in March.

The notice appeal came one day after the UAE Justice Ministry backed the death sentence, saying the court "was convinced with a clear conscience that she committed this ugly premeditated crime."

It said in a statement the ruling was not final and that Ms. Balabagan could appeal against the sentence in higher courts.

Death sentences in the UAE must secure the endorsement of the federal supreme court even if a defendant does not file an appeal.

An execution must be approved by President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, the statement said. Sheikh Zayed had ordered the retrial of Ms. Balabagan, a Muslim, after an earlier court sentenced her to seven years in prison for manslaughter. The court also concluded that she had been raped and awarded her financial compensation.

Ms. Balabagan made an impassioned appeal for help to Philippine President Fidel Ramos in a live radio interview aired nationwide Tuesday.

view aired nationwide Tuesday.

"President Ramos, please help me gain my freedom because I am innocent. I just defended myself," the maid said repeatedly in between sobs over radio station DZXI. "I want to go home... I know that the beloved Allah will not abandon me," said Ms. Balabagan.

The girl's mother, who spoke to her on air via telephone in the southern Philippines city of Cotabato, tearfully advised her daughter to be strong during her ordeal, reminding her that Manila was doing its best to save her from execution.

If the UAE carries out the sentence, she will be the second Filipina maid this year to be executed.

Flor Contemplacion, 42, was hanged by Singapore in March for two 1991 murders which many Filipinos believe she did not commit. The resulting public uproar in the Philippines forced Mr. Ramos to downgrade diplomatic ties with its South East Asian neighbour.

Police clamped a security blanket around Emirates Airlines aircraft here Tuesday as a high-level Philippine delegation prepared to leave for the UAE, officials said.

Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon, Executive Secretary Ruben Torres and Labour Secretary Jose Brilantes are under direct orders from Mr. Ramos to prevent a repeat of the Contemplacion row, Mr. Siazon told reporters.

He did not say when the three would leave.

Mr. Siazon said the delegation will meet UAE justice and labour officials to discuss the Balabagan case. "They are prepared for general discussions... on labour issues," he added.

Manila has said it will appeal against the verdict, while Mr. Ramos said he will appeal for clemency to Sheikh Zayed if the higher courts uphold the death sentence.

The Philippine ambassador to the UAE, Roy Senares, said he would "voluntarily resign" if Abu Dhabi carries out the sentence on the girl.

Manila airport's assistant general manager for security Gerry Maglaya said the airport security measures were designed to guard against reprisals on UAE interests.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt regains control of resthouse in Sudan

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian government has regained control of its resthouse in the north Sudanese town of Dongola after ministerial contacts. Egyptian government newspapers said on Tuesday. The Sudanese authorities had seized the resthouse, which belongs to the Egyptian Irrigation Department, and had evicted the Egyptian irrigation engineer who lived there. Sudan has appropriated several Egyptian properties in Khartoum and other parts of Sudan over the past two years, reflecting the poor state of relations between the two states. The newspapers quoted the Egyptian minister of public works and water resources, Abdul Hadi Radi, as saying he sorted out the problem with his Sudanese counterpart at talks in Rome. Under the Nile waters agreement, the Egyptian Irrigation Department maintains a chain of stations in Sudan to monitor the flow of the Nile.

Policeman killed in ambush in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Gunmen killed a policeman in an attack on his post in a Khartoum suburb, a government-owned newspaper said on Tuesday. Al Ingaz Al Watani said the attack took place on Sunday in Kalakala. The newspaper quoted Major-General Omar Al Haj, director general of police in Khartoum state, as saying a number of suspects had been arrested. He gave neither their identities nor their motives.

'Kuwait arrests Iraqi infiltrator'

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti border patrol has arrested an Iraqi infiltrator who admitted he had been sent to carry out acts of sabotage, a newspaper said on Tuesday. The infiltrator admitted that he worked for the Iraqi army and that he attempted to cross the border to conduct sabotage operations in Kuwait for the Iraqi intelligence apparatus. Al Anbaa newspaper said, "He revealed that the Iraqi regime formed suicide teams to send them to some countries, including Kuwait, to upset their security," it added. It did not say when he was arrested and there was no immediate official confirmation of the report.

U.S., Kuwait to launch navy war games

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The U.S. and Kuwaiti navies are to launch joint manoeuvres in the northern Gulf as part of U.S. troop exercises already underway in the desert. Kuwaiti military officials said Monday. "The American and Kuwaiti marines will take part from Thursday in joint manoeuvres to improve their armed combat capacity," an official told the Kuwaiti agency KUNA. He did not say how long the exercises would last and how many personnel would take part. On Aug. 30, U.S. troops launched 45 days of exercises in the desert close to the Iraq-Kuwait border to dissuade Baghdad from carrying out any attacks on the emirate. Kuwaiti troops were due to join the manoeuvres in mid-September. The exercises were originally scheduled to take place in October but were hastily brought forward after Washington spotted "unusual" Iraqi troop movements which intensified following the Aug. 8 defections of two senior Iraqi officials to Jordan.

Iranian legislator lashes out at U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Iranian legislator said Monday that U.S. and other foreign forces were in the Gulf to incite war and plunder the region's oil wealth. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. It quoted Hassan Rowhani, deputy speaker of the parliament, as saying that "with their presence in the Gulf, and by fanning the flames of war among countries, foreign powers want to plunder the oil of the region." IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as saying that the presence of foreign forces was "detrimental" to the region. Speaking in a meeting with Gannam Ali Al Jomhour, head of Iran-Kuwait parliamentary friendship group, he said that foreign powers had "covetous eyes" on the region's resources. Attacking Israel, Mr. Rowhani said that the "Zionist regime" was "the main problem in the region."

55 Filipina maids flown home from Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — The Philippines embassy in Kuwait has repatriated 55 Filipina maids who fled their employers after alleged abuse, a Philippines diplomat said on Tuesday. The 55, who left for Manila on Sunday, were the latest batch of maids repatriated under a programme that has arranged the return tickets of 506 runaway maids since January 1995, he said. Sunday's operation was financed by the embassy, while earlier flights had been financed by Kuwait, he added. "The embassy is currently financing 100 repatriations. About 30 maids will be sent home some time next week," he said. The maids have been living in the embassy's overseas workers' welfare administration building, a refuge for maids in dispute with employers. Some eventually return to their jobs or find other jobs. Some 66 maids remained at the refuge, the diplomat said.

Police kill suspected militant in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Police shot dead a suspected extremist and arrested nine others Tuesday in southern Egypt as they searched for radicals who fatally shot and dismembered a man last week. Police officials said raids were aimed at finding the murders of Kady Fahmy Mohammad. He was shot Thursday in the town of Malawi, and the attackers then took a knife from a nearby butcher shop and cut his body to pieces. Police say the radicals accused Mohammad of being a police informer. His head was found later on a pole in a neighbouring village. It was one of the most brutal slayings since extremists launched a campaign of violence in the spring of 1992 to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with Islamic rule. It was unclear if the suspect killed on Tuesday or those detained were involved in Mohammad's murder.

Civil war looms again in Somalia

NAIROBI (AFP) — The spectre of civil war looms once again in Somalia after the seizure by its most ambitious warlord of a small inland town and a retaliatory warning from a rival of "all out war" unless he withdrew by Tuesday.

The capture Sunday of Baidoa, 250 kilometres west of Mogadishu, the capital, sent a shock wave through the country which has been ruled by warlords since the overthrow in 1991 of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre.

General Mohammad Farah Aided's arch enemy, the self-styled "interim president", Ali Mahdi Mohammad who controls the northern half of divided Mogadishu, warned Monday that he would declare "all out war" on Gen. Aided unless he withdrew his militiamen within 24 hours.

Mr. Ali Mahdi said Gen. Aided would be held responsible for the "catastrophe" that would ensue from his attempt to extend his authority beyond southern Mogadishu.

Reports in Nairobi said Gen. Aided and some 600 militiamen had met little resistance in Baidoa on which they swooped in 30 "technical" or jeep armed with machineguns.

Gen. Aided's men seized 17 foreign aid workers in Baidoa and placed them in what he called "protective custody."

It is now almost impossi-

ble to get in touch with Baidoa as Gen. Aided's men looted most of the radio sets used by international organisations.

However, reports reaching here said Gen. Aided was in the town on Monday night.

Gen. Aided whose followers proclaimed him "president" in June, has held talks with the town's "elders" who have established Islamic law in Baidoa. However, reports said Gen. Aided had failed to persuade them to agree to a joint administration.

A senior member of an aid organisation said Gen. Aided was "personally in charge of the town."

"Either this business will degenerate into generalised war, which could easily happen, or once again a peace agreement will be clinched at the last minute," he said.

Gen. Aided's long-term ambitions are unclear and some observers said he might have attacked Baidoa just to obtain fresh supplies for his men, who now call themselves the "national army" of Somalia.

However, other analysts said it could be the first move in an attempt to extend his authority to the whole country — a scheme certain to trigger a tough response from his rivals.

Since Sunday, there have been unconfirmed reports of military preparations from Bardera west of

Baidoa.

The next possible target of Gen. Aided could be the southern port of Kisumu.

The port itself is controlled by Mohammad Said Hersi, alias "Morgan" who is the son-in-law of Siad Barre but the countryside round Kisumu is held by Colonel Ahmad Omar Jess, an Aided loyalist, who was named "defence minister" in Gen. Aided's 75-member "government."

Gen. Aided's erstwhile ally, Ali Osman Atto who quarrelled with him after accusing him of being a warmonger, was outside the country when Gen. Aided attacked Baidoa. But his entourage said he planned to return to Somalia quickly "either to take up arms or enter into an alliance to try to contain Gen. Aided's territorial ambitions."

There is a real risk that Somalia could plunge once more into civil war and another humanitarian disaster on the scale which prompted international intervention in 1992.

Operation Restore Hope, though it did succeed in alleviating the suffering of thousands of starving civilians, was politically a failure in that U.N. and U.S. troops left after being unable to establish a government recognised by all the factions.

An Australian journalist held with foreign aid workers when warlord Gen. Aided seized Baidoa said

Tuesday there was a "degree of nervousness" in the town.

"There's a degree of nervousness among everybody here" about what might happen, said Ben Wilson, correspondent for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation by satellite telephone.

"No-one was expecting it (the attack). It was a completely sudden move," he told the ABC in a call from a compound where he was held.

Mr. Wilson said that Gen. Aided "moved 600 troops and 30 battle wagons into town. He's now in control. He's closed the airport and he's also now detaining a number of foreign nationals including United Nations staff."

Reports in Mogadishu said that 17 expatriate aid workers seized in the offensive were safe.

The ABC reported that three Australians were among those held — Mr. Wilson and two women, a World Vision aid worker and a nurse.

Mr. Wilson said the aid workers were being held in two separate compounds, and the groups had not been able to contact each other.

"We are not allowed to move," Mr. Wilson said. He said the detainees were unsure whether the expatriate staff were being used by Gen. Aided "to achieve bargaining power."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 Inspector Gadget
14:30 Super Champs
15:00 Tomorrow's World
15:30 Amazing Stories
16:00 Families
17:00 Children's Programme — Le Mondes Englois
17:30 Telefilm "Les Aventures De Nour Burna"
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuaia
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe
20:00 Anything for a Laugh
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Doc — Sex Power
22:00 News in English
22:25 Prism
22:45 The Blue Skies
23:45 Doc — Silk Road
00:30 Varieties

PRAYER TIMES

05:00 Fajr
06:17 Sunrise
12:20 Dhuhr
12:50 'Asr
18:41 Maghreb
19:58 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swiffeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624596
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrenceaux Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 632543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624335
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 661915
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 624932
The Evangelical Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Fine weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming cool at night with clouds appearing at

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

low altitudes and winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17/27
Aqaba 22/34
Deserts 14/30
Jordan Valley 19/32

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 27 Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 52 per cent. Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fayed Al Dabbas 759155
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi 894788
Dr. Awad Al Hawandeh 832350
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 773336
Al Asma pharmacy 630755
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637940
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalil 273099
Al Ouds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd 989000
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 192 621111 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 84302
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Oversize Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 64428116
Aklieh Maternity, J. Amn. 64244112
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Miltas, J. Amman 636140
Pakastine, Shamsani 66417114
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
ABQA:
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 66416446
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7710113
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Shamsani 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 66224050
ZARQA:
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983333
Zarqa National Hospital 865199
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)900560
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Im Al Nefesa Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Larnaca (RJ)
10:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
15:15 Zagreb (add) (RJ)
18:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:15 Istanbul (RJ)
18:15 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
19:00 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
19:00 Madrid, Vienna (RJ)
19:15 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:15 Rome (RJ)
00:35 Beirut (RJ)
01:15 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
18:50 Karachin, Abu Dhabi (PK)
11:30 Jeddah (SV)

13:15 Cairo (MS)
13:40 Abu Dhabi (GF)
18:20 London, Beirut (BA)
18:30 Athens (PK)
21:00 Dubai (EK)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
22:05 Sanaa (YV)
22:05 Algiers (AH)
22:05 Larnaca (CY)
22:25 Amsterdam (KL)
23:30 Athens (OA)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
10:50 Rome (RJ)
11:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:40 Berlin, London (RJ)
12:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
12:40 Colombo (RJ)
20:30 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Beirut (RJ)
21:10 Riyadh (RJ)
21:10 New Delhi (RJ)
21:15 Dharan (add) (RJ)
22:15 Aden (RJ)
22:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
23:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
23:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
11:50 Athens (PK)
19:00 Jeddah (SV)
14:15 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Doha, Muscat (GF)

19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
22:00 Abu Dhabi (GF)
22:55 Larnaca (CY)
23:00 Sanaa (YV)
23:05 Sharjah (AH)
23:10 London (BA)
00:28 Amsterdam (KL)
04:00 Athens (OA)

MARKET PRICES
Upptower price in fils per kg.

Apple 600/400
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 600
Cabbage 140/80
Carrot 430/320
Cauliflower 220/120
Cucumbers (large) 150/120
Cucumbers (small) 250/180
Eggplant 240/150
Figs 320/250
Garlic 680/500
Grapes 750/600
Guava 600/500
Lemon 300/200
Marrow (large) 250/150
Marrow (small) 420/320
Mulukhia 130/80
Olive (dry) 850/700
Orange 450/350
Peaches 1000/800
Pepper (hot) 180/120
Pepper (sweet) 200/150
Pomegranate 340/250
Potato 260/180
String Beans 650/500
Tomato 120/80
Water Melon 110/70

Powell criticises plan to cut off welfare to legal immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Gen. Colin Powell criticised Monday proposals to deny welfare to legal immigrants and to cut off health care and other benefits for children of illegal aliens.

Gen. Powell derided such Republican proposals as "simplistic" and anathema to the American tradition of welcoming immigrants — including his Jamaican parents. He said he favours tougher border controls and numeric limits on legal immigration but said politicians "have to stop demonising" immigrants and others in their pursuit of votes.

"There is such an edge to some of the rhetoric associated with these positions, that very often a meanness creeps into the dialogue and an intolerance creeps into the dialogue that I don't think is serving our national mood very well right now," Gen. Powell said in an Associated Press interview.

The interview came as Gen. Powell sets out on a cross-country book promotion tour taking him to two dozen cities by the end of

October. As he travels, the former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff will decide whether to enter the 1996 presidential race.

He said Monday he has ruled out running as a Democrat and would decide by November whether to run as a Republican.

A decision on an independent campaign could wait until next year, Gen. Powell said. Already, Republican strategists and candidates are suggesting Gen. Powell would be an odd fit if he joined the party's field of candidates in light of his support for abortion rights, gun control and preferential treatment for minorities in employment and other fields.

Gen. Powell, who is black, also has criticised Republican welfare reform proposals and, in his view, insensitivity to racial issues.

Addressing illegal immigration, an issue high on the Republican agenda, Gen. Powell recalled how papers his parents received when they entered the United States from Jamaica hang on

the wall of his home.

He said illegal immigrants do not deserve U.S. government benefits but took issue with a proposal by candidate Sen. Phil Gramm that would prohibit legal immigrants from collecting welfare for five years after they enter the country. The proposal is in legislation pending in the Senate.

"I'm not sure I understand the argument that says (legal immigrants) should be treated in some discriminatory way," Gen. Powell said.

He also objected to proposals that would deny benefits to children born in this country to mothers who entered the United States illegally. California voters approved such a provision last year, and there is a move afoot to adopt a similar policy nationally.

"I don't think those children should be pushed aside because of the accident or the illegality of their parents' entry," Gen. Powell said. "Once you're born in this country, our American tradition over 200 years is you are an American."

The U.S. constitution says

a person born in the United States is a citizen, even if the parents are not. Being born in the country is a requirement for election to the presidency.

On other issues, Gen. Powell:

— said he now questions some of the advice he gave presidents Clinton and Bush during the U.S. military deployment in Somalia, especially his recommendation that American troops try to hunt down Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aided. Eighteen Americans died in the operation. "It is advice I wish I could pull back and I think it wasn't the right thing to do," Gen. Powell said.

— said Mr. Clinton's Bosnia policy has been inconsistent, in part because of shifts by European allies. But he said the policy has proved effective since Mr. Clinton took personal charge over the summer.

— praised the United Nations but said it was ill-suited for military operations.

U.S. denies balloonists to blame for own death

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. State Department has rejected suggestions by Belarus that two American balloonists shot down there last week were partly responsible for their own deaths and told the Minsk government to stop "making excuses".

Spokesman Nicholas Burns dismissed a statement by the Belarusian Ministry of Defence that the Americans and the Swiss organisers of the race committed "many violations of international norms and common sense".

"I would just like to submit for the record that we absolutely and categorically reject any attempt by the government of Belarus to make excuses about their direct responsibility for the death of two American citizens," Mr. Burns said.

"There can be no excuses, no rationale, no way of explaining the totally unjustifiable behaviour last week, shooting down two Americans in a balloon that posed no threat to them at a time when the cold war is over," he added.

Yuri Sivakov, a member of the Belarusian commission investigating the incident, repeated accusations Monday that neither the Swiss nor the military in neighbouring Poland had given proper notice about the balloonists' flight plans.

But Mr. Burns insisted the flight plan had been received and approved by the Belarus government.

"Obviously somebody wasn't talking to somebody else. They screwed up and they shot them down. It's their problem, it's their responsibility, legally as well as morally, to accept their responsibility and not to make excuses," he said.

He said the U.S. government would reiterate to the Belarus government that it should protect people who visited the country by land or air.



U.S. President Bill Clinton addresses a fundraiser in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (AFP photo)

Clinton hits fundraising trail early for 1996 race

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (AFP) — Pushing his early start on bankrolling his 1996 presidential bid, President Bill Clinton launched a cross-country tour Monday to drum up millions of campaign dollars.

The president is making the fundraising rounds in the midst of a struggle within the rival Republican camp for that party's nomination, and while all eyes are on retired General Colin Powell, currently mesmerising the nation with hints of a presidential run while he peddles his autobiography.

The law allows candidates to collect a maximum of \$45 million each before the mid-1996 political conventions. Half of that comes from the federal government, so long as candidates manage to qualify by collecting a certain amount from each state.

The president evidently has learned from a mistake of his 1992 Republican predecessor, George Bush. The former president put off his reelection campaign, including the collection of funds, until the last minute, contributing to the well-known result.

Mr. Clinton has no intention of being caught napping while his rivals are waging an energetic fight to replace him.

Officially, the White House is pretending that the Clinton campaign will begin in earnest at the beginning of next year. But the reality is different. Of all sitting presidents, Mr. Clinton, many observers say, kicked off the earliest re-election campaign ever in April.

In another never-before-seen move, the White House broadcast earlier this year a slew of televised ads aimed at boosting the many measures Mr. Clinton has undertaken in order to fight crime.

According to White House spokeswoman Mary Ellen Glynn, the fundraising dinners Mr. Clinton will attend are as follows: Monday in Philadelphia, Tuesday in Miami, Florida, Wednesday in Denver, Colorado and Thursday in San Francisco and Los Angeles, California.

At \$1,000 per contributor, the legal limit, Ms. Glynn said the fundraising dinners should rake in more than \$4 million. After the tour, Mr. Clinton will be on his way toward nearly \$18 million in contributions for the period April through September.

The choice of states is no coincidence.

California, the most populous U.S. state with the most Electoral College votes, figures prominently in Mr. Clinton's reelection plan. This week's visit will be his 20th since taking power in January 1993.

Florida is another state rich in electoral votes, and one that Mr. Clinton just barely lost three years ago.

2 U.S. papers print Unabomber manifesto in full

WASHINGTON (R) — Seeking to stop further bombings, two leading U.S. newspapers Tuesday printed the 35,000-word anti-technology manifesto of a serial bomber whose 17-year campaign has made him the most wanted man in America.

Attorney General Janet Reno and FBI Director Louis Freeh recommended publication of the manuscript by the New York Times and the Washington Post out of concern for public safety, the Justice Department said.

Law enforcement officials hope publication will help lead to the arrest of the elusive man they call the Unabomber.

The newspapers issued a joint statement announcing the distribution of unaltered copies of the manifesto in an eight-page insert in Tuesday's Washington Post.

The document, which says the industrial revolution has been a disaster for the human race and calls for a return to "wild nature", was sent to the papers in June by a man who identified himself only as "FC".

The Unabomber, whose letter bombs have killed three people and injured 23 others, threatened to send a bomb "with intent to kill" unless the document was published in its entirety.

He last struck in April when a letter bomb he sent killed a California timber industry lobbyist. The FBI believes he was a student of the history of science in the late 1970s in the Chicago area, and then moved to Utah and northern California.

After extensive debates on whether to publish under the threat of violence and talks with law enforcement officials, the papers said they decided to go ahead with publication.



Retired U.S. army General Colin Powell (left) signs copies of his new book My American Journey for customers at a bookstore in Washington, D.C. (AFP photo)

China slams Hong Kong polls, ignores pro-China camp loss

BEIJING (R) — China's propaganda machine Tuesday slammed Hong Kong's last major elections before the British colony's 1997 return to Chinese rule but made no mention of losses suffered by pro-Beijing candidates.

"This election is unfair, unreasonable," the official People's Daily quoted a spokesman for Xinhua News Agency's Hong Kong branch as saying. Xinhua's Hong Kong branch is China's de facto embassy in the British colony.

Beijing has said it will dismantle Hong Kong's newly elected Legislative Council after it takes control of the territory in mid-1997, and took the opportunity to remind voters in the British colony of its decision.

"We do not think it reflects the will of the people in Hong Kong," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian told a regular news briefing in a comment on the elections.

Mr. Chen denied that China's anger was linked to the poor performance of pro-Beijing candidates in the polls.

"Our stand has been consistent... We expressed our view early on and on several occasions. It has nothing to do with the specifics and process of the election."

The People's Daily, mouthpiece of China's Communist Party, cited what it called many

instances of chaos in the Legislative Council elections Sunday and said Hong Kong's media had itself cast doubts on the fairness of the polls.

It did not say who had expressed the reservations. Election officials had received more than 1,500 complaints, a significant number of which involved people who were deprived of their voting rights for no reason at all, it said.

The People's Daily said election officials had also admitted disqualifying about 110,000 voters because they failed to respond to queries about their residency.

Several voters said they were unaware of the queries and had been unknowingly deprived of their voting rights, the newspaper said, adding these voters doubted the fairness of the polls.

The People's Daily said voter turnout was low. About 920,000 people voted, representing a turnout of 35.79 per cent, or 3.36 percentage points lower than the previous elections in 1991.

But the newspaper carefully avoided mention of the drubbing of pro-Beijing candidates by democracy parties.

In the race to elect all 60 members of Hong Kong's Legislative Council for the first time in 150 years of colonial rule, the Democratic Party, whose leaders have been denounced by China as

subversives, won three times as many seats as pro-China rivals in results announced Monday.

The Democratic Party won 11 of the directly elected Geographical constituency seats, while the pro-China Democratic Alliance won just two.

Mr. Chen, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, declined to discuss the fate of "subversive" democrats after 1997.

However, China appeared to offer a sop to public opinion in the British territory that it takes over in 651 days by adding an unusually conciliatory statement that toned down its harsh message on dismantling the legislature.

"Although it is like this (unfair, unreasonable), figures who love the country, love Hong Kong, have through participation gained training and accumulated experience," the People's Daily said, indicating China was trying to avoid negating the electoral process.

"...It (elections) showed that hope for a smooth transition and love of the motherland and Hong Kong remain the main trend in Hong Kong," the Xinhua spokesman was quoted as saying.

The People's Daily said the polls contravened the Sino-British Joint Declaration, which requires no change in Hong Kong's political system for 50 years.

Cult shot Japan police chief — paper

TOKYO (R) — A top member of the Aum doomsday sect has told Japanese police that the cult attempted to assassinate the National Police Agency chief in March, newspapers reported Tuesday.

Kiyohide Hayakawa, the Aum Shinto Kyo (Aum Supreme Truth sect) "construction minister", told investigators the cult shot Takaji Kunimatsu, director-general of the National Police Agency, in an attempt to disrupt the investigations into the sarin nerve gas attacks on Tokyo's subway system, the Nikkan Gendai and Yukan Fuji newspapers said.

However, Mr. Hayakawa did not say who in the cult organised or carried out the shooting. "I don't want to

say that yet," the papers quoted him as saying.

Chief Kunimatsu was seriously injured on March 30 when a masked gunman shot him as he left his Tokyo condominium for work.

The shooting occurred just a week after Chief Kunimatsu had ordered raids on the sect, which has since been accused of the March 20 sarin attacks.

The cult was immediately suspected of carrying out the shooting, but until now police had no direct evidence linking it to the incident. The papers said Mr. Hayakawa's testimony was the first investigators had received on the incident.

A Tokyo Metropolitan Police spokesman would not confirm the reports. The cult has always denied involvement in the shooting.

ment in the shooting.

Mr. Hayakawa has been in police custody since April, when he was arrested for an alleged break-in. He was later also charged with making illegal drugs.

Cult leader Shoko Asahara is awaiting trial for a total of six crimes, including murder and attempted murder in connection with a series of violent incidents — the subway gas attacks, which killed 11 people, another fatal sarin attack in 1994, and the abduction and murder of a lawyer and his family.

The guru commanded absolute loyalty from his followers, and in each case he is accused of having ordered some of them to carry out the murders on his behalf.

A year after invasion, Haiti is on its way to democracy

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — With a critical step in Haiti's transition to democracy complete, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide Monday said his country had moved from "death to life" and denied it was headed for one-party rule.

On the eve of the first anniversary of the U.S.-led military intervention that restored him to power in the impoverished Caribbean nation, Mr. Aristide told reporters Haiti was ready to move forward with presidential elections.

"We didn't have any tradition of organising elections," he said. "If we can organise in three months three elections, that means a lot for my country... This is

paving the way to keep moving ahead toward democracy."

Haitians voted Sunday in a run-off in the country's first elections in five years. Sixty seats in the Chamber of Deputies, eight seats in the Senate and 121 local council seats were contested. The Provisional Electoral Council said results would be announced on Sept. 28.

The voting was not entirely finished, officials said, because bad weather forced cancellation of some balloting in the north and ballot errors postponed elections for a handful of local council seats in the southwest.

The election process was long and difficult, starting with a disorganised first

round in June and make-up elections in August. But international observers noted improvements with each round.

Analysts predict 80 per cent of the seats in Haiti's new parliament will be held by Lavalas, the party supported by Mr. Aristide. But Mr. Aristide rejected suggestions his country was headed toward one-party rule.

"Because we mean what we say in terms of building a state of law, we need a minority as we need a majority, we need the leaders of the opposition as we need those who support our government, we need the rich as we need the poor," he said.

Man bites dog

SYDNEY (AFP) — A furious Australian dog-owner defended his blind, fat pet from an attacking mongrel by sinking his teeth into the assailant, a newspaper reported here Tuesday. John Bryant of Sydney took his dog Tina into a park where a black mongrel snapped its jaws into his pet's neck and ear, refusing to release its grip, said the Sydney Morning Herald. "John tried to prise the black dog's jaws open, but got a cut finger instead," the newspaper said. "As he later put it, 'the adrenalin was rushing', so he sank his teeth into its neck. It worked, the dog let go of Tina and rushed off." The report said Tina did not require treatment but Bryant received a tetanus shot.

Mrs. Shevardnadze becomes victim of cat burglar

BONN (AFP) — A cat burglar stole a handbag containing money, air tickets, jewellery and other personal effects from the German hotel bedroom of the wife of Georgia's President Eduard Shevardnadze, police said Tuesday. The incident occurred in a luxury Bad Godesberg hotel near Bonn last week. Nantuli Shevardnadze, 58, was in the country to take delivery of valuable dental equipment provided by a German charity, according to the Express newspaper. As she dined nearby with the former German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the cat burglar broke open a window in her suite and made off with the bag. Mr. Genscher helped find her other lodgings the next day.

Win some, lose some, factory owner discovers

LIVERPOOL, England (AFP) — The owner of a small factory here was forced to suspend operations Monday when half his employees failed to turn up to work after winning Britain's National Lottery. Sixteen workers at the plant stayed away from the factory floor Monday morning after scooping a £2.6-million (\$3.9-million) jackpot in Saturday's draw. After a wild night of celebrations, the syndicate went to pick up their winnings, £167,562 (\$259,721) each, Monday, leaving the rest of their workmates technically redundant — and no doubt ruling their failure to chip in to the consortium. "Some of them (the winners) have said they will be leaving but I think most of them will be coming back as it's not enough to retire on," company director Alan Riddoch said.

Diana's old cars sold

LONDON (AP) — The car Prince Charles gave to Lady Diana Spencer before their marriage was sold at auction Monday, complete with the silver frog ornament on the hood. The 1981 silver Ford Escort Ghia, which had been given as a prize in a 1988 newspaper contest, was bought at the Sotheby's auction by a collector of royal memorabilia who paid £4,600 (\$6,900) — as much as it cost new. Princess Diana drove the car from May 1981 — two months before the wedding — until August 1982. The frog was a copy of a gift from Princess Diana's sister, Lady Sarah Spencer, seemingly to remind her of the fairytale of the beautiful girl who kisses a frog and turns him into a handsome prince. Sotheby's also sold a more recent runabout of Princess Diana's — an emerald green 1994 Audi. The convertible with cream leather interior sold for £23,000 (\$34,500). Sotheby's said — about £6,000 (\$9,000) more than such a car would have cost through a dealer. An anonymous Singapore investment banker bought the Audi and intends to keep it at his London home. The seller was Iain Dale, 33, who had bought it from a dealership. The princess now drives a dark blue Audi.

U.S. House sets framework for ties with N. Korea

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House set conditions Monday for upgrading relations with North Korea and urged President Bill Clinton to suspend the U.S.-North Korea nuclear agreement if the Communist state resumes nuclear activities.

The resolution on U.S. dealings with North Korea is non-binding. But Rep. Benjamin Gilman, chairman of the International Relations Committee, said it "will

keep pressure on the Clinton administration to proceed cautiously in its dealings with North Korea over the nuclear issue."

In opposition to the bill, Rep. Lee Hamilton, the committee's ranking Democrat, said it amounted to unilateral rewriting of the accord and "lessens the prospects of that agreement's success."

The bill tells the president to ensure that North Korea

live up to terms of the 1994 agreement: shipping spent fuel from graphite reactors out of the country, allowing inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency and dismantling its graphite reactors.

It declares that South Korea is the only acceptable source for producing the major components for light-water reactors promised the North Koreans as compensation for abandoning con-

struction of their graphite reactors. Those reactors produce materials more easily adapted to nuclear weapons than that of light-water reactors.

The resolution also urges the president not to upgrade diplomatic relations or relax trade barriers with North Korea unless the North talks peace with South Korea and stops trying to deploy an intermediate-range ballistic missile system.

Man bites dog

SYDNEY (AFP) — A 35-year-old Australian dog owner defended his blind dog from an attacking dog by sinking his teeth into the assailant's neck, a newspaper reported here Tuesday.

Mrs. Shevardnadze becomes victim of cat burglar

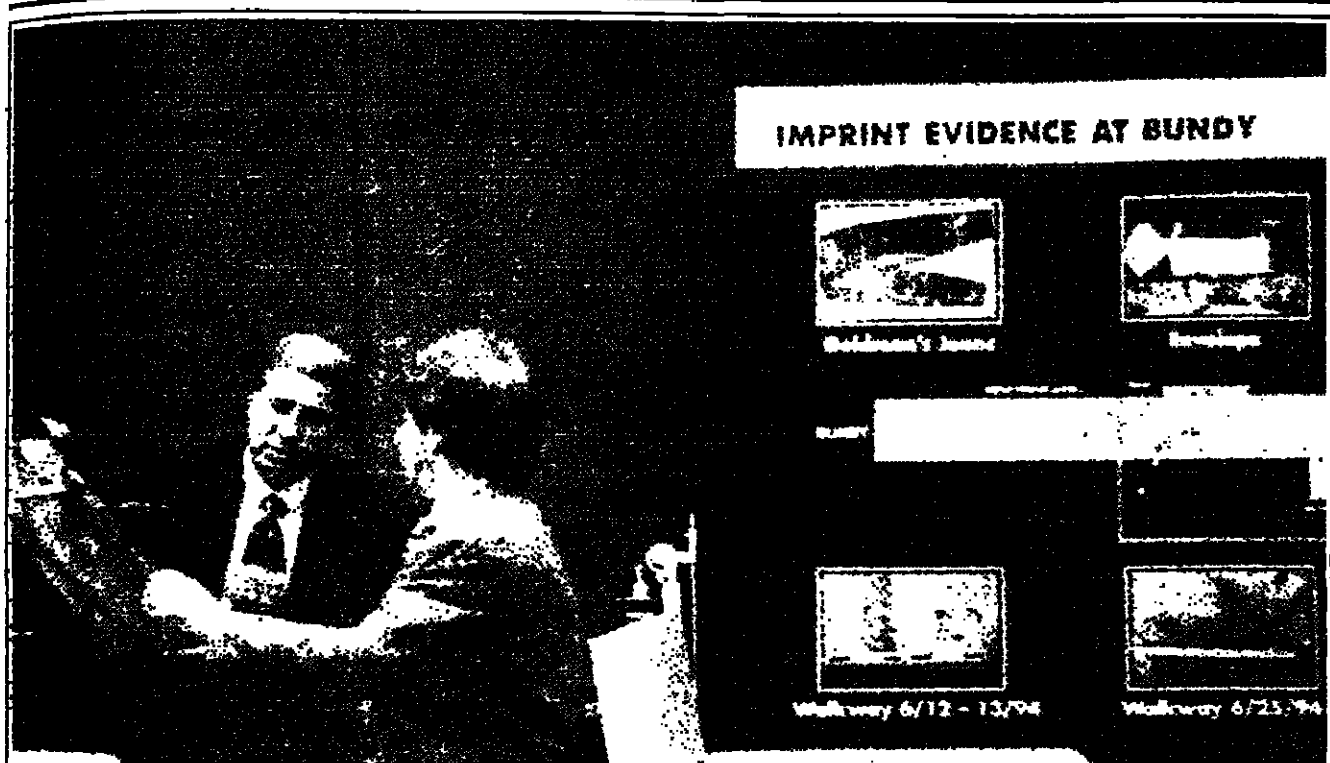
ANN (AFP) — A cat stole a handbag containing money, a jewelry box and other valuables from the Georgian President's wife, Mrs. Shevardnadze, police said Tuesday.

Win some, lose some, factor owner discloses

VERPOOL (AP) — The owner of a half-brother of a convicted murderer, Monday's trial, said he was not a factor in the crime.

Diana's old cars sold

ONDON (AP) — The late Princess Diana's cars were sold at auction before the end of the month, a spokeswoman for the royal household said.



FBI shoe expert William Bodziak (left) is questioned by defence lawyer Barry Scheck (right) about bloody shoe prints around the crime scene in the O. J. Simpson double murder trial (AFP photo)

Prosecution ends rebuttal in Simpson trial

LOS ANGELES (R) — The prosecution in the O. J. Simpson double murder trial ended its rebuttal phase of the marathon proceedings Monday, paving the way for the final defence testimony.

But lead prosecutor Marcia Clark said she reserved the right to reopen the rebuttal depending on the witnesses put on by defence lawyers seeking to clear the former sports star of the 1994 murders of his ex-wife and her friend.

The last prosecution testimony came from Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shoeprint expert William Bodziak, who contested the suggestion of defence forensic expert Henry Lee that a possible bloody shoeprint could have been left by a second killer.

The defence then immediately put blood expert Professor Herbert McDonnell on the witness stand to dispute evidence that gloves in the case had shrunk by 10 to 15 per cent because they were soaked in the blood of the victims.

When prosecutors asked Simpson, a football legend, to try on the gloves earlier in the trial, the play backedfire when they appeared to be too small for him.

"They don't fit," Simpson mouthed to the jury as he stood in front of the panel struggling to get the gloves on.

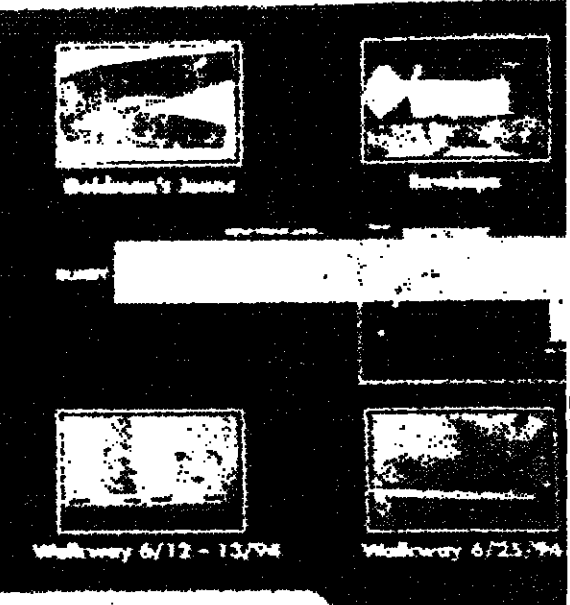
The defence also wants to call a reputed mafia figure, Anthony "the Animal" Fiato, who is now cooperating with authorities. Mr. Fiato, if allowed to testify, was expected to say that one of the two lead detectives on the case, Philip Vannatter, told him Simpson was the main suspect in the murders before police even entered Simpson's estate and carried out a search without a warrant.

Mr. Vannatter testified earlier that he and three colleagues entered the estate because they feared for the safety of those in Simpson's mansion. They also wanted to inform him of the death of his ex-wife and to tell him where his two young children were.

But when one of the two bloody gloves in the case was found behind the mansion, a full scale search was carried out that unearthed blood spots on Simpson's white Ford Bronco and on the driveway of the estate.

Simpson, a popular sports-

IMPRINT EVIDENCE AT BUNDY



FBI shoe expert William Bodziak (left) is questioned by defence lawyer Barry Scheck (right) about bloody shoe prints around the crime scene in the O. J. Simpson double murder trial (AFP photo)

Chechenya peace talks falter amid talk of war

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — A new round of peace talks in Russia's troubled Republic of Chechenya failed to take place Tuesday when the commander of Russian troops did not show up.

There was no official explanation for General Anatoly Romanov's absence from the planned talks, which came as both sides traded accusations of breaking a six-week-old ceasefire and demilitarisation process.

"I would not be surprised if war broke out tomorrow," Chechen military commander Aslan Maskhadov told reporters.

He said Russian bombing and artillery attacks had killed 32 people, including three children, and wounded 50 in the past four days.

"There are more deaths than during the war," he said.

The Russian delegation meanwhile issued a statement to the Chechen rebel negotiators and to the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is mediating the talks, saying the rebels were not respecting the July 30 military accord.

"From the Sept. 1st to 18th, 408 shooting attacks were made on Russian positions, including 180 in Grozny, killing 26 soldiers and wounding 153," the declaration said.

An army spokesman said this week that guerrilla attacks have recently "become more aggressive."

Neither set of figures could be confirmed independently, although both sides frequently exaggerate their losses. AFP correspondents have witnessed heavy bombardments of Chechen-held villages during the ceasefire period.

Both sides also accuse each other of failing to comply with the demilitarisation part of July 30 accord which stipulates that most Russian troops pull out and Chechen guerrillas disarm.

According to Russian officials, forces loyal to independence leader Dzhokhar Dudayev have between 25,000 to 30,000 weapons and another 10,000 to 15,000 are in the hands of other Chechen factions.

The Russians have been frustrated by disarmament sessions in which Chechens hand over almost entirely worn out weapons, even antiques, and few of the deadly rocket propelled grenade launchers that have been used so effectively against the heavy Russian forces.

However, Mr. Dudayev's fighters are estimated by the Russians to number no more than 7,000 and groups of guerrillas are rarely seen by AFP correspondents fighting with more than an average of one weapon per man.

On Monday, Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered his government to step up its efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Chechenya, presidential envoy Oleg Lobov said.

Mr. Lobov, who is also secretary to the powerful Russian Security Council, arrived in the Chechen capital Monday with the message that Mr. Yeltsin wanted to secure a lasting peace and rebuild infrastructure in the breakaway southern Russian republic. He was to spend a week in Chechenya.

Mr. Yeltsin "ordered the Russian government to step up its work to rebuild Chechen industry and search for a peaceful solution to the conflict," Mr. Lobov said.

Russian troops marched into the secessionist republic in December to put down a three-year-old independence movement, sparking a conflict which has left between 15,000 and 30,000 dead.

Russia has made it clear that talks on a political settlement — seen as the only real solution to ending the deep-rooted conflict — cannot proceed until the military accord, signed on July 30, has been respected.

Relief operations intensify in Virgin Islands

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — Military planes delivered food, water and supplies by the tonne Monday to victims of hurricane Marilyn, as federal relief effort kicked into full gear.

C-130 cargo planes thundered onto the airstrip at St. Thomas, beginning the full relief effort. The island's 51,000 residents lost water, electricity and telephone service when Marilyn struck Saturday.

National Guard troops and police directed traffic in Charlotte Amalie, the islands' capital, where long lines formed at gasoline stations. The drive from the resort of Frenchman's Reef, normally a 15-minute trip, took 45 minutes Monday.

In the interior, workers cleared roads of power lines and utility poles. A radio station was set up so residents could leave messages for loved ones.

The total number of victims wasn't immediately known. Authorities reported that between three and six people were killed in St. Thomas, while a hospital worker in St. Croix reported two storm-related deaths there. Two people died in Puerto Rico, and one unconfirmed fatality was reported in St. John.

Monday's airlift included 300,000 prepackaged military meals, drinking water and ice, said James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"This is a massive response and has taken a combination of everything we have as a federal team to make this happen," Mr. Witt said at a briefing in St. Thomas.

Up to 80 per cent of St. Thomas' homes were damaged or destroyed, FEMA said.

Mr. Witt said he was unaware of any missing people on St. Thomas. Officials earlier had reported about 50 people missing or injured.

A tropical storm watch was issued for Bermuda Monday as Marilyn moved through the Atlantic.

At 2100 GMT, the centre of Marilyn was about 670 kilometres southwest of Bermuda, moving north at 14 mph (22 kph) with winds of 100 mph (160 kph). It was expected to pass near Bermuda sometime Tuesday, well east of the U.S. mainland.

About 100 U.S. marshals arrived in St. Thomas to help stop sporadic looting,

Canadian parliament holds stormy debate on Quebec

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian lawmakers traded accusations and rhetoric Monday in a tumultuous parliamentary clash which left unclear whether a simple majority in next month's referendum would guarantee independence for Quebec.

Federalists and separatists engaged each other for the first time since the French-speaking province announced it would hold a sovereignty referendum on Oct. 30.

Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Bloc Quebecois leader Lucien Bouchard, both Quebecers but the first federalist and the other a separatist, angrily jabbed fingers at each other across the aisle as the fall session resumed.

"They want a divorce today and they want to be lovers tomorrow," Mr. Chretien said of the Quebec government's proposal to declare sovereignty after offering Canada a new economic and political partnership.

Mr. Bouchard, leader of the official opposition whose sole goal is leave the Canadian federation, demanded that Mr. Chretien agree to respect the result of the vote on Quebec, Canada's largest province.

Bloc members suggested Mr. Chretien was unwilling to respect the will of the people and asked House of Commons Speaker Gilbert Parent for an emergency debate on whether the vote would be respected.

The Reform Party, declaring itself to be the national opposition in the absence of bloc interest in other Canadian affairs, also pressed for a straight answer from Mr. Chretien on whether 50 per cent plus one vote was enough for Quebec to go.

"If they were to put the question, 'do you want to separate from Canada or not,' then I would say, 'okay, I'd be the first to recognise it, if they were honest enough to put a perfectly clear question to Quebecers,'" Mr. Chretien said.

But, addressing Reform leader Preston Manning, he said: "If you want me on behalf of all Canadians to say that with a clouded question like that with one vote I will help them to destroy Canada, you might, I won't."

The question to be posed on Oct. 30 asks Quebecers to approve leaving Canada after offering it economic and political partnership. Quebec's 6.9 million people make up about one-quarter of Canada's population.

The Canadian dollar has been on a roller-coaster ride on financial markets throughout the Quebec debate. It was heavily sold last week when Mr. Bouchard said the debate would never end until Quebecers voted yes.

Mr. Chretien accused him and the other separatists of refusing to accept a no — either now or looking back to the 1980 referendum when Quebecers voted 60-40 against leaving Canada.

Mr. Bouchard told reporters afterwards, however: "I'm quite ready to recognise a no. It's a commitment to recognise what the people will decide."

But he said no one can forecast what Quebecers would do in the future and that they could hold a referendum again.

IAEA delegates urge swift pact on nuclear test ban

VIENNA (AP) — Delegates to an international nuclear conference Monday urged swift adoption of a test ban treaty and other measures to ensure nuclear materials cannot be diverted for weapons.

A dozen states, including Australia and New Zealand, which have been most vocal in condemning France for resuming nuclear testing in the Pacific, submitted a draft resolution calling on nuclear states to halt testing until a test ban treaty comes into force.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, in a statement read to the International Atomic Energy Agency's general conference, urged all countries "to voluntarily refrain from nuclear testing, and to demonstrate to the world their commitment to a future free of nuclear weapons."

The United States and Russia, both nuclear weapons states which no longer conduct tests, and the European Union of which France is a member, expressed their support for a test ban treaty by the end of next year, but refrained from urging other states to halt their tests.

China also still has an active testing programme.

Japanese delegate Yasuaki Urano noted that his was the only country to have suffered nuclear attack 50 years ago, and described as "most regrettable that nuclear tests are still being conducted," he called for an end to all testing.

France did not speak Monday, but in opening remarks to the week-long meeting of the 122-member U.N. Organisation, Director General Hans Blix said the agency was considering a French request to assess the impact of its nuclear tests.

He said issues like the objective and scope of the mission would have to be settled first.

Countries opposed to France's nuclear tests are likely to insist on a thorough assessment that does not provide arguments for continued testing.

The draft resolution, which does not mention France by name, said "an immediate cessation of nuclear testing would contribute to the successful conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty" by the end of next year.

Mr. Blix said French Foreign Minister Hervé De Charette in a recent letter assured the agency of his country's commitment to a comprehensive test ban treaty in 1996, but also noted its intention to conduct tests before then.

Many states also urged work on a treaty to end production of weapons-grade materials. U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary announced that the United States was placing 20 tonnes of weapons-grade material under the agency's inspection regime.

Delegates also urged more effective monitoring of nuclear programmes to ensure that material cannot be diverted to weapons production as Iraq sought to do in 1990, and North Korea is suspected of trying.

Mr. Blix told the conference that the "essential components of Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme have been identified and destroyed, removed, or rendered harmless."

Last week, the agency said Iraq had embarked on a crash programme to develop a nuclear weapon just after invading Kuwait in 1990, but allied bombing and technical difficulties had doomed it.

Mr. Blix confirmed North Korea is maintaining a freeze on its nuclear programme, as agreed with the United States last year. The Communist state agreed to stop in exchange for two reactors of Western design.

However, Mr. Blix said North Korea still is not allowing the inspection of spent fuel in the five megawatt reactor at Nyongbyon.

South Korea's chief delegate, Science and Technology Minister Kim-Mo Chung, termed the U.S.-North Korea agreement a "step forward," but expressed concern over the North's "continuing non-compliance" with agency safeguards agreements.

Russia angry over NATO's 'bigger is better' ideas

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — NATO air strikes on Bosnia Serbs may rile the Russians, but the idea of enlarging the Western military alliance to include Moscow's former partners in Eastern Europe really has them steaming.

For many in the 16-member North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), expansion into the vacuum left by the crumbling of the Soviet Union is only natural.

For some of the countries freed from the heavy hand of the former Warsaw Pact, it is a chance for security against future Russian dominance.

For Moscow, it is clearly an effort to isolate Russia.

Dr. Alexander Kononov, director of Moscow's Centre for Military Policy and Systems Analysis, said expansion proposals show NATO "does not believe in the possibility of democratic transformation in Russia."

The West is taking advantage of Russia's current weakness "to gain the most favourable strategic position for further confrontation," he said.

NATO steadfastly refuses to identify potential joiners, but the countries most often mentioned as first in line for full membership are Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia. Others see the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as natural members.

Other nations, like Romania, wonder why they are not in the front row.

Ask Col. Marian Kowalewski of the Polish Defence Ministry why Poland so desperately wants in and he responds with wide-eyed astonishment, then offers a lesson in modern European history and past Russian invasions.

Clyde Kull, Estonia's ambassador to NATO and the European Union, says expanding NATO is clearly a part of the process of protecting democracy in these newly emerging free countries.

Why the West, and the United States in particular, is so eager to open up the 45-year-old club to new membership is less clear.

NATO decided at the end of last year that it would expand into Eastern Europe, but it was only after it made the decision that it ordered a study of why the alliance should be enlarged and how it should go about it. This strikes the Russians as more than a little suspect.

"This policy was decided before somebody calculated the consequences," Mr. Kononov said during a conference on the future of NATO earlier this month in the Belgian coastal resort of Knokke-Heist. "You are analysing only now but the decision is already made."

Among the consequences, he said, are further deterioration of Russia's relations with NATO, new strains on arms control treaties and possible insistence by the Russian military that redeployment of tactical nuclear weapons is the only available, cheap "equaliser" to a stronger NATO.

Moscow is trying to maintain a vestige of its former superpower status while struggling with enormous internal economic and political difficulties. Increasing its isolation can only hurt the democratisation process, Russian leaders say.

On Bosnia's war, for instance, Russia is a member of the international "contact group" pursuing a peace settlement. But Moscow has been pushed to the sidelines, outnumbered by the other members — the United States, Britain, France and Germany — and effectively out of the decision-making loop.

"Russia and the Westerners are talking past each other once again," said Dr. Sergei Rogov, director of Moscow's Institute for USA and Canada Studies. "Russia is at best informed before an attack happens, or presented with a fait accompli. It is being consulted, talked to, but the decisions are being made by others."

The Bosnian war and the plan to enlarge the alliance have moved the Russia-NATO relationship steadily backward over the past year, acknowledges Gebhardt Von Moltke, a German who is NATO's assistant secretary-general for political affairs.

But, he added: "We are reaching out toward the Russians. Russia is going to isolate itself if it says it only will negotiate if NATO forgoes enlargement."



Pope John Paul II is flanked by President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya (right) as he arrives at Nairobi Airport (AFP photo)

Pope urges end to bloodshed in Rwanda and Burundi

NAIROBI (R) — Pope John Paul II appealed Tuesday for an end to the bloodshed in Rwanda and Burundi, saying forgiveness was the only solution to ethnic conflict there and elsewhere in Africa.

Addressing a huge crowd at the biggest mass of his week-long tour of Africa, he singled out refugees from Rwanda and Burundi among the worshippers who thronged Nairobi's central Uhuru Park in bright sunshine.

"Dear refugees, know that more than ever I am close to you and share your immense pain," the 75-year-old Pope said in French at the end of the three-hour mass, celebrated from an altar platform covered by a huge thatched African roof.

"What is happening in your countries is a terrible tragedy that must end. Know that you are not alone and that the Pope is with you," he said.

Up to one million Tutsis and allied Hutus were put to death in last year's Rwanda genocide, the culmination of decades of tribal violence. Killings continue on a daily basis in both Rwanda and Burundi, obstructing the return of refugees.

Speaking during the service, the Pope noted that a synod of African bishops held at the Vatican last year during the Rwanda blood-bath had felt the need to launch "an appeal for forgiveness and reconciliation."

"This is the only way to dispel the threats which hover over Africa of ethnic hatred and which recently affected Rwanda and Burundi so brutally," the Pope said.

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Is it worth the cost?

AS THE world begins to digest further the platform for action that was adopted by the Beijing conference on women last week, the question that should be addressed is how effective this platform will be in bringing about solid changes in the lives of women all over the world. No matter how ambitious the objectives set out by the conference, little can be done unless countries of the world commit themselves to realising them. All that the conference did, just as the Cairo conference on population before it, was set the tone for the action that can be taken in the future to tackle the issues of women's rights and positions in societies. But the platform is not legally binding, and there is no mechanism to guarantee that any of the principles agreed in it will be upheld.

Hence is the question about the cost effectiveness of international conferences like the Beijing gathering. Millions of dollars went into the preparation and holding of the conference and the question is whether the nations of the world got their money's worth.

Since the United Nations, under the auspices of which all these meetings are held, meets regularly to address urgent matters of concern to the world, why not leave it to the General Assembly of the U.N. to deal with women rights or human rights subjects or population issues. The U.N. General Assembly makes it a point to convene extraordinary sessions whenever there are pressing subjects to discuss. The international organisation also designates certain items on its agenda for urgent consideration every time it meets in New York.

It would, therefore, seem redundant and costly to hold additional international meetings to deal with matters which can be adequately dealt with by these U.N. meetings.

The non-legal nature of the documents that come out of international conferences outside the ambit of the U.N. makes the whole exercise doubly questionable. The only way to make the resolutions of international fora outside the U.N. relevant is to reflect them in a treaty or convention forms which member states may sign and ratify in due course. Neither the outcome of the Vienna conference on human rights nor the results of the Cairo meeting on population have ever been translated into legally binding instruments. The same happened at the end of the Beijing conference when the platform for action was adopted by consensus. It is high time that the governments of the world reconsider their periodic resort to international conferences over and above the U.N. regular and extraordinary meetings.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya, a writer in Al Ra'i voiced appreciation of the Jordanian Parliament and the Arab League for condemning the action and calling on the Libyan authorities to rescind the order. Ahmad Arafat said that condemnation is not enough and can by no means bring help to the people stranded in the desert or at sea. What is really wanted is the opening of the Arab borders before these unfortunate people and a return of the expellees to those Arab states which had supplied them with travel documents in the first place thus enabling them to travel to Libya. It is not reasonable for the Arab World to watch passively while the Palestinian people continue to be tossed around from one part of the Arab World to the other, facing one tragedy after another. It is true that the main crime was committed by Israel, which drove the Palestinians out of their homeland in 1948 and has been pursuing this course of action since then against the Palestinians in the occupied lands, but the countries that close their doors before the expelled Palestinians also bear part of the crime for helping to perpetuate the sufferings of their kinsmen. He said perhaps the expulsion will remind the world community of its responsibility towards enabling the Palestinians to be repatriated to their Palestinian homeland.

HOLDING A referendum on the reelection of Saddam Hussein as president of Iraq without including the northern Kurdish region in the referendum would deal a fatal blow to the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq, said Saleh Qallab, a writer in Al Dustour. It is not logical to accept the result of the referendum if it involves only part of the Iraqis, excluding a large segment of the population in the north and the Iraqi leadership has to be aware of such a factor that could consecrate the separation of the north, and the writer. The writer suggested the postponement of the referendum until the Kurdish question has been resolved permanently, saying that the Iraqi leadership ought to curtail the influence of the president's sons and relatives, pave the ground for enactment of laws that would introduce political pluralism and public freedoms. The writer said that holding the referendum without the Kurds in the north is a mistake that will have grave consequences of the unity of Iraq.



Self-Censorship is part of Democracy too!

Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

Discrimination at the Arizona iced tea company and the power of Arab Americans

ANTI-ARAB discrimination is alive and well at the American beverage company that produces the popular drink, Arizona iced tea.

Earlier this year the company fired 21 of its sales staff — all Arab-American. The 21 were mostly sales managers and salesmen. They had been long-time employees of the company who had previously been recognised for the significant role they played in making "Arizona Iced Tea" a national success.

Until the late 1980's the company had been mainly a small brewery operating in the New York City area. When the company introduced Arizona Iced Tea into its product line in 1992, they turned to their Arab-American sales staff to push the new drink.

The Arab-American staff marketed the drink by going initially to the over 2,000 Arab-American small store owners in the New York City area. From there they were sent to Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco and elsewhere around the United States again introducing Arizona Iced Tea in each community through the thousands of Arab-owned stores.

As the company grew from a few million in sales in the late 1980's to 400 million today, the Arab sales staff were promoted in recognition of their efforts. One of the fired Arab-Americans, for example, had been promoted from

salesperson to manager with 15 employees under his leadership, in recognition that he had increased annual sales of Arizona Iced Tea in his area to over 1.2 million cases of the beverage.

Success was only one side of the coin of the Arab-American experience with the Arizona Iced Tea Company — bigotry was the other. The 21 fired men have complained that discrimination had long been a part of their relationship with the company. While, for example, Christian and Jewish holidays were observed, requests of the 21 who were Muslim, to be able to celebrate the Eid Al Fitr and Eid Al Adha were denied.

Both management and other employees at the Arizona Iced Tea Company frequently made anti-Arab comments to the Arab staff. One of the fired Arabs complained that the Arabs were called "the animals," another that they were called "thieves."

They were taunted after the bombing of the World Trade Centre. One of the owners of the company teased the men saying, "Do anything but don't blow up the World Trade Centre again." Others made comments to the Arab staff implying that they were responsible for or linked to the bombing.

With the hiring of a new supervisor at the Arizona Iced Tea Company in April of 1995, the situation de-

teriorated even further. After the bombing in Oklahoma City that supervisor made openly provocative comments about the Arab employees. He made fun of their names and suggested that they were responsible for the bombing. They were taunted with comments like, "Did you leave your bags in the Oklahoma hotel?" and "I hope I don't find a bomb in my mailbox."

This new supervisor then proceeded to put in place a company-wide reorganisation which he was overheard to describe as "having to clean out all this garbage" — meaning to remove the Arab staff.

The Arab-American employees were demoted and humiliated in an effort to force them to leave their jobs.

When the Arab employees protested this reorganisation to the company's owner they were told they should accept the decision or leave. After hiring an attorney to advise them, they were notified by the company that "all the Arab guys should come in to pick up their final checks."

This entire episode is a shocking example of the fact that despite the successes that Arab-Americans have experienced on many levels in American society, discrimination still exists and can be a real danger to the security of many Arab-Americans living in the U.S.

A deeper lesson, however, can be learned by the case and that is the real economic power and patent political power of the Arab-American community.

In a real sense, the success of Arizona Iced Tea Company is the result of Arab-American marketing of the product by targeting the thousands of Arab-American stores that dominate the grocery business in several U.S. cities. With 2,000 stores in New York City, 700 in Chicago, 600 in San Francisco, over 1,000 in Michigan and thousands more nationwide, Arab-American merchants can become a real economic and political power — if they are organised.

They were organised to sell Arizona Iced Tea and they can and should now be organised to defend the Arabs who were discriminated against by that company.

A conference call arranged by the Arab-American Institute brought together Arab-American small business leaders from six cities. They have agreed to work together to support this case. Beyond that they are also considering how to harness their collective strength to enhance their political, economic and social impact in this country.

We remember how the Arab-American store owners in New York were instrumental in winning an election campaign for a New York state legislator in

the 1980's. Purchasing over 100,000 shopping bags with the candidate's portrait and slogan, they distributed those bags with the candidate's campaign literature to all of their customers during the days before the election. Later, the victorious candidate acknowledged that the Arab-American store-owners had provided the necessary boost his campaign needed to win.

The 350 Arab-American store owners in Cleveland employed the same tactics to help Mayor Mike White with his first mayoral campaign. And in Chicago, San Francisco and Detroit the networks of Arab-Americans store owners have played important roles in electing mayors and other candidates to state and local posts.

The collective strength of the Arab-American small store owners can be a powerful instrument in the Arab-American community's campaign for empowerment. They can develop an agenda to advance their communities' interests, protest against discrimination, protect themselves against violence and harassment and advance the community's broader concerns.

If the success of Arizona Iced Tea and that company's unfair treatment of its Arab employees teaches Arab-Americans anything — it should be that the community has power and the time to use it is now.

France has enough prestige without nuclear arms

By Gareth Evans

CANBERRA — "France is the most brilliant and dangerous nation in Europe, best suited to become in turn an object of admiration, hatred, pity, terror, but never of indifference...."

This week's nuclear bomb blast at Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific has given Tocqueville's epithet a striking contemporary resonance. France's leaders seem not to have grasped that the international community well understands that it now has an opportunity that may be unique — to work for the emergence of a new, peaceful global order in which the threat of annihilation from nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction does not plague the daily lives of individuals. Today's generation is demanding that this opportunity not be missed.

War and preparing for war have rarely guaranteed a nation's security. There may be some historical logic behind the concept of France's *force de frappe*, but many have difficulty in applying that logic to the same extent in today's rapidly changing world. The established pattern of strategic superpower rivalry is yielding to a more fluid environment, where economic interdependence and well-being are increasingly seen as key factors in the security of nations.

It is also a world in which no amount of nuclear weapons will solve the appalling humanitarian crisis in Bosnia, nor protect France from whatever threat it may perceive to its

southern flank.

The five declared nuclear weapon states — the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France — agreed in May at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference to renew their commitment to the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons and, in the meantime, to exercise the "utmost restraint" in testing them. In return, the international community agreed to extend the treaty indefinitely, despite strong reservations from many countries whose national preference would have been first to secure concrete steps towards nuclear disarmament by the nuclear weapon states.

Several days after the review conference, China conducted a large test, equivalent to 140 kilotonnes of TNT. In June, France declared that it would resume testing in the South Pacific, lifting a moratorium established by President Francois Mitterrand in April 1992.

Now the first explosion in the scheduled series has occurred. What sort of signal does this send those countries that negotiated the delicately balanced documents at the treaty conference? What sort of signal does it send those same countries negotiating in Geneva for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty? How much does it contribute to the cooperative approach that will be needed to bridge the large gaps that still exist among the negotiating states over issues of fundamental importance to the integrity of the test ban treaty?

France and China both point out that they have carried out

relatively few nuclear tests compared with the big powers, the United States and Russia. But all the nuclear weapons states, as signatories of the non-proliferation treaty, have a clear obligation, defined under international law in Article VI of the treaty, to work towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Nuclear testing does not contribute in any way to fulfilling that obligation. It simply reinforces the already widespread belief that the nuclear weapon states are not serious about eventual elimination.

The world looks to the nuclear weapon states to show real leadership by acknowledging that the rivalries and dangers of the cold war, which spurred them to acquire nuclear capability, are no longer dominant features of the contemporary international order.

Right now, the frustrations felt around the world threaten the success conclusion of negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, a treaty that would make it impossible for

would-be proliferators to develop sophisticated, second-generation nuclear weapons.

There is another reason why Tocqueville's language is so apt following France's decision to resume nuclear testing. The decision cannot be understood as other than a gratuitous offense against the peoples of the Pacific. France has turned its back on its responsibilities to a part of the world dotted with small, developing island states. These countries have been prepared to accept France

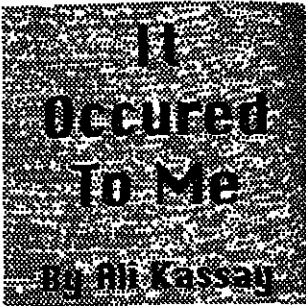
Saxon plot on the part of Australia and New Zealand to exclude France from the region. But there is a strong communal sense of opposition to exploitation of the Pacific through the introduction of nuclear weapons and testing. The peoples of the region do not want to face risks, however slight or long-term their impact, to which the French government refuses to subject its own citizens in metropolitan France.

That position is not irrational. It is the product of the thought processes of so many European and French citizens. We are all loath to see our children and homelands exposed to risks from nuclear accidents, or to possible long-term environmental damage from weapons testing.

France is great enough to get along without the prestige it attaches to its nuclear weapons status. Its technological brilliance continues to be universally recognised, not least in fast railroad systems, aircraft construction and electronics technology. Its international diplomatic role is widely respected.

France should stop using yesterday's solutions for today's problems. Were it to do so, it would secure a much more influential and safer place in the world than it is attempting to obtain by its outdated and unwelcome behaviour in the South Pacific.

The writer is the foreign minister of Australia. This comment is reprinted from the *International Herald Tribune*.



Flight or fright?

WHO REMEMBERS the pomp and ceremony at the opening of the new international airport? So proud were Jordanians that legends immediately began to circulate around Ziziah: This, some claimed, is where Qais, the most tragic Arab lover, roamed and lost his reason when Laila rejected him. A friend once assured me with solemn oaths that this was the site of an epic battle, where the ghosts of the slain rise and relive the scene every night, which prevents the catering department from serving night flights.

Personally I was particularly proud of more functional aspects: Toilets were clean, escalators worked, baggage carts rolled smoothly and the system was straightforward in that Royal Jordanian flights took off at one building and those of other companies at the other building.

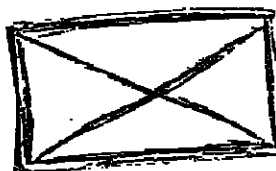
First to go was the public announcement system which became unintelligible, swiftly followed by the toilets which became impenetrable. Their odour deters all but those totally devoid of olfactory sense. None who ventures there could ever believe that Jordan suffers from water shortages, because the place is permanently flooded.

Next the escalators broke. Now they function only when a VIP is due, whereupon the escalator which he is expected to use, is repaired, probably by cannibalising other static escalators. Then the trolleys became so unwieldy that many a passenger preferred to lug his baggage rather than attempt to manoeuvre the cart. Recently, new carts were bought, which are leased for half a dinar, the equivalent of a long taxi ride. This is a lot of money for half an hour's use of a trolley, particularly for a tourist who arrives with much baggage and not a penny of Jordanian currency.

At the departure lounges, a solitary soldier was stationed at an improvised barrier to check the passports of all passengers before they could proceed to have their passports checked at the check-in and immigration counters, creating endless and unnecessary congestion. Assuming that his function is necessary, why only one barrier and one soldier when there are numerous flights and many counters inside?

Finally, the system went berserk with all flights landing everywhere. You leave your car at the park adjacent to your terminal, only to discover that your aeroplane is inexplicably at the other end of the building. So you come out, pay the park attendant, go the other park, and pay again after you have received or seen off your passenger.

All these shortcomings are due to pure, unadulterated bad management. It is not the shortage of funds, but of good administration that gives a new airport such an air of advanced dilapidation and inadequacy. This is counterproductive, particularly when the country contemplates a major expansion in tourism. The airport is the first impression which most visitors receive of Jordan, and decision-makers should remember that one does not get a second chance to make a first impression.



FROM THE ARABIC PRESS

Agriculture must be encouraged

By Tareq Masarweh

IT IS rather unusual for the Ministry of Agriculture to take its dispute with the Ministry of Finance over the issue of dividing plots of land for agricultural use to the press before submitting the question to the Council of Ministers. However, we believe that this is a new development which does not seem to be bad at all.

Before going into detail, we have to declare in advance that we side by the Ministry of Agriculture in light of the Finance Ministry's drive to secure the authority of dividing any shared piece of land into units of four dunums each. The Ministry of Finance cited a 1995 law on fixed assets as legal grounds for its position, but made an exception for the lands in the Jordan Rift Valley and the Aqaba Region. But dividing land into four-dunum units will deal a fatal blow to farming because it means transforming land into a commodity in accordance with the provisions of the law. If the Ministry of Finance has its way, who would be interested in investing in a four-dunum plot of land?

The Finance Ministry, which is in charge of collecting state funds, prefers to see fast turnover in land ownership simply because it charges 10 per cent fees on the price of land in every transaction. In that context, its decision can be understood. But that ministry's interest differs from that of the nation.

According to statistics, Jordan has 4.5 million dunums of cultivated land, including irrigated areas. Of this valuable land, 1.8 million dunums are located within the perimeters of municipal and local councils' boundaries. This means that this precious land will be covered with cement and asphalt in years to come.

But unlike other countries of the world, we lack a law that controls land usage—one that assigns land for buildings, for farming, for pasture or forest zones, or even land that should be irrigated and others rain-fed (if they receive 400 millimetres of rain water annually), or land where artesian wells can be drilled. What is important is to have a law that does not fragment agricultural units.

Jordan's laws on inheritance and laws that enable local councils to appropriate agricultural land are actually killing agriculture.

Add to all this a disease called academic education, which causes the migration of youth from rural to urban areas. We find that we are eradicating farming by exterminating the farmers, community. This is the catastrophe which the Jordan Valley is witnessing at the moment.

Furthermore the employment of foreign labour in agriculture has turned farming into "agricultural business", with the subsequent annual loss of cheap and surplus agricultural products. Basically, a family dealing with farming should first produce for its own needs and then, sell the surplus in the market, and basically such farming involves all the family members in the task of cultivation but, if need be, the family can enlist the help of a partner who could obtain his share through his own efforts.

We have set up homes for our farmers, which are not suitable for and are unrelated to traditional farmers, houses, and we have erected these homes on plots of land where farmers cannot inspect their livestock, in settlement zones which require farmers to take taxi to reach their land.

We have also created a law which prohibits raising animals in villages, in order to safeguard the environment, and we have asked the farmers to set up pens outside the village boundaries and to set a sentinel to protect the fens. We are quite aware of the fact that cows live among people in Switzerland's villages.

We must refrain from destroying agriculture the way we have been doing since the 1950s. If the Ministry of Finance is keen on collecting fees and more funds, it can create a "land fund" which ought to stop further fragmentation of land and allow people interested in farming to become partners by buying their "brothers' shares in the land so that sufficient areas of land can be economically viable for cultivation.

To those interested in developing farming in Jordan, I say that agriculture is a "national" like cement, phosphate and potash which continually yield profits. In addition to creating a "land fund", the Ministry of Finance is invited to impose a special tax on unused agricultural plots of land. Such a tax would force people to exploit their land instead of waiting for the opportune moment to sell it.

It should be noted that the Ministry of Planning has given pledges to the World Bank—which acts as our legal guardian—that the government will act towards preventing any further fragmentation of Jordan's agricultural land.

Al Ka'i

Non-governmental organisations play crucial role in advancing democratisation process — Ghali

NEW YORK (U.N.)—Non-governmental organisations had a crucial role to play in advancing the process of democratisation, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Monday in an opening address to the 48th annual Department of Public Information (DPI) NGO Conference.

Democratisation served the cause of peace because it offered the possibility of justice and progressive change without force, he said, adding that NGOs themselves were a manifestation of democratisation. Non-governmental organisations could mobilise support for democracy, they could help build democratic institutions and practices within and among states and they could monitor threats to democratic freedoms at home and throughout the world.

There was an important role for NGOs in making sure that the commitments reached at United Nations conference in Rio de Janeiro, Vienna, Copenhagen, Cairo and Beijing were honoured, the secretary-general said. He emphasised: "You must watch. You must speak. You must insist. You must act."

Building upon the themes of peace, development and democracy, positive change could be achieved and the aims and aspirations of the United Nations Charter could be fulfilled: To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to enhance the dignity of the human person and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

The three-day conference, which will end Wednesday, was opened by the assistant Secretary-General for Public Information Samir Sanbar. The theme of the conference is, "The United Nations at the turn of the century: global issues, global actors, global responsibility."

Also on Monday, the conference heard three keynote addresses. United States First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, in a videotaped keynote address, said that in recent years, NGOs had consistently played an essential role at United Nations major conferences. "You insist upon being counted on and accounted for," she said, adding that NGOs energy and commitment had helped shape the discussion of significant economic and social issues. In addressing the world's social problems, governments could not be expected to act alone.

"Governments need you to monitor their actions, and to mobilise them to find innovative solutions to problems," she told participants.

In her keynote address, the Minister for Social Affairs of Spain, Cristina Alberdi, said people wanted to participate in the events and processes that shaped their lives; that energy must be channelled for the creation of new and fairer societies. The work of NGOs should be bolstered through the mobilisation of further financial and human resources.

The Executive Director of CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Miklos Marschall, said today's massive movement towards greater citizen participation and influence was a new phenomenon. A strong, healthy and sustainable civil society needed better visibility and understanding, more creative environment and funding.

In opening remarks, Mian Quadud-Din, director, Promotion and Public Services Division of DPI, stated that cooperation for development was part of the international language and expressed his confidence that NGOs, which were making major contributions in international cooperation, would carry out their responsibilities.

Also addressing the meeting Monday, the chair of the conference, Premier Nath Jain of the International Mahavir Jain Mission, drew attention to the unprecedented number of participants at the conference and called on them to focus on how their organisations could perpetuate the work being done by the United Nations. The chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, Gordon Klop of the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education, said that the presence of NGOs in the United Nations was a demonstration of their commitment to have the organisation in their agendas.

Also in opening remarks, Leona S. Forman, chief of the DPI NGO section and coordinator of the conference, said that through their independently created associations and institutions they had over the past 50 years created networks that today reached all around the planet.

The great human goals of peace, justice and prosperity required everwidening cooperative effort for their achievement, he said. A new framework must now be built for a new century. That framework must take

which the NGO community was very involved.

In a question-and-answer segment late Monday, Ms. Alberdi, in reference to the Beijing platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women last week, said that the question of resources to implement that document had been a major focus of discussions during the conference. There had been agreement that the private sector should contribute with new and additional resources and that priority should be given to programmes involving women. What had become clear in Beijing was the need to multiply the impact of women in society at all levels. She stressed the importance of the right to education and health as essential for the empowerment of women in society, recalling that in Beijing for the first time women's rights had been recognised as a human right. Female genital mutilation was a violation of human rights and had to be eliminated, she added.

Mr. Marschall, also in reply to questions, drew attention to the need for guidelines about the right to association and the role of NGOs which might be helpful to countries where NGOs have legal problems. CIVICUS had been established to bring together members of the civil society to see what they could do together.

Statement by Ghali

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali welcomed participants and observers to the DPI/NGO conference, stressing that "the United Nations is your home." He said that non-governmental organisations were one of the strongest expressions in the emergence of the age-old human efforts to build a just community that would span the globe. Today, people everywhere live in a global context. As states were recognising that reality, inter-state cooperation was increasing. But the peoples of the United Nations had been the first to understand that. Through their independently created associations and institutions they had over the past 50 years created networks that today reached all around the planet.

The great human goals of peace, justice and prosperity required everwidening cooperative effort for their achievement, he said. A new framework must now be built for a new century. That framework must take



Boutros Ghali

into account not only political issues, but also economic behaviour and social and cultural aspirations. It must express present-day realities. It must express the ideals of a human community in evolution towards the future. The work of non-governmental organisations in every dimension of development was one of the United Nations proudest chapters and would become even more vital in the years ahead, he said.

A subject at the forefront of the international community's agenda was cooperation for democratisation, he continued. Individuals and groups were increasingly using non-governmental organisations as a channel for direct involvement in local, national and international affairs. The trend was positive and encouraging. It reflected the importance of democratic participation in human relations, and it helped to propel democratic processes in international affairs.

"Democracy and human rights are interconnected," he said, adding that "just as the concept of human rights is universal, so too does democracy relate to all cultures." Democracy was not a model to be imitated by one state from another. It was an outcome to be shaped and achieved by peoples in their own distinctive ways.

"Democracy was an objective. Democratisation was a process. Democratisation served the cause of peace because it offered the possibility of justice and of progressive change without force. Democratisation served the cause of de-

velopment because it opened the way towards the freedom of thought, expression and action that were required for economic and social success in this age of information." Dr. Ghali said. He added that democratisation was a driving force for progress on all fronts. Increasing popular demand for participation in governance, combined with growing realisation of the global problems facing states, had contributed to the growth of the NGO movement, he said. Non-governmental organisations were themselves manifestations of democratisation. Non-governmental organisations therefore had a crucial role to play in advancing the process of democratisation," said Dr. Ghali.

Non-governmental organisations could mobilise public support for democracy, including by helping to put democratisation issues on the national agenda and keeping them there, he said. Internationally, NGOs could work to overcome the isolationism and indifference that affected many countries today. During the cold war decades, virtually every event in any part of the world was regarded as significant. Today, many rich and powerful nations see no national interest in far-off problems and were inclined to do nothing when "non-strategic" regions sink into economic despair or political disorder. When states remain reluctant, public opinion must lead the way. "Non-governmental organisations are key," he emphasised.

Dr. Ghali said non-governmental organisations could help build democratic institutions and practices within states and among states, adding that in many places, NGOs had become directly involved in the establishment of democratic institutions. For instance, he said, in Cambodia, NGOs had provided training to major political parties in political organisation and political campaigning. In many countries—including the United States—NGOs sponsored candidate debates, and played a leading role in voter education. "And NGO participation was an integral part of the global Electoral Assistance Information Network, coordinated by the United Nations. NGOs had become part of the fabric of democratisation and those activities were increasingly being conducted in cooperation with the United Nations," Dr. Ghali told the conference.

He said non-governmental organisations could monitor threats to democratic freedoms at home and throughout the world. If democratisation was to endure, he said, the international community must be made aware when danger to the process arises. It must come to the defence of democracy, but always with full respect for national sovereignty. Diplomacy that consolidated peace and democracy was the most likely to succeed in the long term, he said, citing the restoration of Haiti's democratic process as an example of what those common efforts could achieve.

The secretary-general said that following the international conferences in Rio, Vienna, Copenhagen, Cairo and Beijing, there was an important role for NGOs in making sure that the commitments reached at those conferences were honoured. "You must watch. You must speak. You must insist. You must act. Driven by your efforts, supported by member states and building upon the themes of peace, development and democracy, I am confident that positive change can be achieved." He expressed his conviction that such change would fulfil the aims and aspirations of the United Nations Charter. "We can save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. We can enhance the dignity of the human person. We can promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom," he concluded.

France to play active role in MENA summit

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. De Charette, on his first visit to the Middle East after taking office in June, described Jordanian-French relations as unique and said the relationship was not limited to politics and economy as evidenced by the new cultural agreement.

The agreement, signed for Jordan by Planning Minister Rima Khalaf, updates a 1965 accord and calls for closer ties in the academic and educational fields as well as archaeological. The French minister, who arrived late Monday from Egypt and left for home from Amman, said his country attached special significance to its relations with Jordan and the Kingdom's key role in the peace process as well as regional security and stability.

"The French government is fully committed to helping the economic development of the Middle East—an essential element to consolidate stability and security in the region," said the minister, speaking through an Arabic interpreter. "We are also particularly supportive of Jordan's economic efforts."

Mr. De Charette said his country will send its minister of trade as well as two other members of President Jacques Chirac's cabinet to the MENA summit, which, he added, will make a "very big contribution" to the economic development of the region.

"The public and private sectors of France will play an active role in the summit," which is expected to discuss several billion dollars worth of regional infrastructure and development projects as well as commercial ventures, he said.

Mr. De Charette said a working committee was to begin studying French debt relief for Jordan but did not give details. The amount involved in a debt-equity swap negotiation scheduled to begin in Paris this week is about \$70 million, which will be offered to investors at a discounted rate. Investors will receive the equivalent in non-convertible Jordanian dinars for investments in Jordan.

Several French groups have already shown interest in the arrangement and the appropriation of the amount is expected to be relatively quick once Jordan and France agree on the discount rate and other technical aspects, according to diplomatic sources. France holds about \$600 million of Jordan's foreign debts of \$5.6 billion. Part of the debts are already rescheduled to periods extending to more than 20 years and another part represents aircraft lease payments due from Royal Jordanian, the Kingdom's national carrier.

Central Bank Deputy Governor Michael Maro will lead the Jordanian side to the negotiations on the debt-equity swap beginning

in Paris on Sept. 22.

Replying to questions at the press conference, Mr. De Charette said Jordanian officials had briefed on the "tragic situation" of the Iraqi people and the need to find means to alleviate their suffering.

"The situation of the Iraqi people is dangerous..." he said. "Therefore, the first priority is to find a solution to that." "Secondly, the government of Iraq must respect all United Nations Security Council resolutions, and if this takes place under the supervision of the world, then the time would be right to lift the economic sanctions on Iraq."

At the same time, "the sanctions will not be lifted unless the Iraqi government complies with all the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council," he said, adding that his country believed that Baghdad intended to meet all its obligations to the U.N.

Replying to a question whether France supported any effort to overthrow the regime of President Saddam Hussein in Iraq, Mr. De Charette said: "No. It is strictly an internal affair of the Iraqi people, and we do not involve ourselves in the internal issues of other people."

He also denied that he had sought a meeting with or had met with Iraqi defector Hussein Kamel Hassan, who fled the Baghdad regime to Jordan on Aug. 8.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Crown Prince Hassan, in his meeting with the French minister, underlined Europe's role in the Oct. 29-31 MENA summit.

Europe can contribute to the Middle East peace process by participating in the rehabilitation efforts of the region, the Crown Prince said, voicing hope that results of the European Union summit in Barcelona in November will complement those of the MENA summit.

Sharif Zeid and Mr. De Charette discussed regional and international issues, including the Middle East peace process. Sharif Zeid praised France's role in supporting the peace process and emphasised the need to overcome the obstacles facing the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, particularly the ones related to Hebron and Palestinian prisoners.

Sharif Zeid said removing such obstacles would enhance confidence in the future of peace between Israel and the Palestinians, Petra said.

The prime minister stressed the importance of Jerusalem as a symbol of peace

for all, and called for respect for all international resolutions on East Jerusalem.

He voiced hope that Jerusalem will be the capital of the state of Palestine.

Sharif Zeid also expressed Jordan's resolve to join the Europe-Mediterranean partnership, saying that Jordan will hold talks next month with the European Union on this subject.

The prime minister referred to the package of economic laws which has been endorsed by Parliament in its extraordinary session. Such a package will contribute to creating a proper investment climate, he said.

The French minister said his country considers Jordan as a cornerstone for a region, enjoying security, stability, democracy and respect for human rights.

Mr. Kabariti and his French counterpart reviewed preparations for the MENA summit, the latest developments of the Middle East peace process and France's role in supporting the efforts made to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

GCC to attend summit

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq and often tense ties with Iran.

"The (GCC) discussed progress in Iraq's implementation of the Security Council decisions imposed on Iraq for its incursion against Kuwait," the statement said. "It expressed great concern on the disclosures to the United Nations Special Committee... of the dangers of the Iraqi programmes..."

Iraq has handed over important information which could help decide whether it had destroyed all its germ warfare material, a senior U.N. disarmament envoy said Tuesday.

Charles Duelfer, deputy head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarmament Iraq, said he had been given four documents during meetings with Oil Minister Amer Rasheed and other Iraqi officials.

Iranian plane hijacked

(Continued from page 1)

"I never thought that I might be in Israel sometime," said Mehdi Darayali, an English teacher from Tehran. "I'm very surprised to be here. I'm going to tell everyone I visited Israel."

A woman passenger wiped tears off her face as an Israeli army doctor in olive fatigues checked her pulse. When he pushed back her headscarf to examine her eyes and throat, the woman cringed with embarrassment. She quickly pulled the scarf back over her head when the examination was over.

In addition to the flight attendant, there were two armed men aboard the plane, apparently guards. The crew members, including the pilots, were Iranian air force personnel and were questioned by Israeli officials.

Sayed Davoud Sahibolnasab, a 37-year-old civil engineer from Tehran, said he and the other passengers never saw the hijacker, who apparently spent the whole flight in the cockpit.

Mr. Rabin denied permission for the plane to land at Tel Aviv's busy Ben-Gurion international airport, fearing the hijacking was a ploy and might be an attempted suicide attack on Israel.

Mr. Rabin said he broke longstanding policy against meeting demands of hostage-takers and permitted the landing at a remote desert airbase after the pilot reported the plane was running out of fuel.

"I didn't want to be... responsible for the crash of an airliner full of passengers," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin said there were 178 passengers aboard, but Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said there were 174 passengers and crew, including 11 children.

Israel, PLO study maps

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli army. The Ibrahim Mosque, which also houses a synagogue, will stay under Israeli control at least for the time being.

It was the mosque that a Jewish settler massacred at least 30 Palestinians at prayer in February 1994. Mr. Rabin meanwhile told the Jerusalem Post that the army will have freedom of movement in Hebron under the deal.

He added that the Jewish settlers living in the heart of the town would stay during the five-year interim period

of autonomy up to 1999. The negotiators in Taba earlier reached agreement on the mechanics of electing an 82-member council to rule the autonomous Palestinian territories.

Israel's army radio said negotiators also agreed on Israel transferring \$800 to \$900 million in taxes and customs duties to the Palestinian National Authority.

Still to be resolved are control of archaeological sites in the West Bank, sharing of electricity and the fate of 6,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Croats

(Continued from page 1)

Strobe Talbot who said on television: "The light here is red. It's a red stop light. Stop the fighting. Go back to the negotiating table."

The Bosnian Serb share of the country has fallen in just a few days from around 70 per cent to 51.5 per cent—close to the division foreseen by a big power peace plan the Serbs reject.

While the Croatian government appeared to bow to the pressure, the Bosnian government's position was more ambiguous.

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

World Bank study: Many public entities are inefficient and ineffective

AMMAN (AP) — A study by the World Bank, there are 35 public institutions in Jordan that provide basic and financial services but many of them are not effective and not operating at high levels of efficiency. Attributing the reasons for such a low performance on bureaucratic measures, uncompetitive salary regulations and weak structure for incentives, the study also found that public institutions also suffer from weak financial conditions due to pricing policies which do not cover the costs. The World Bank experts examined the energy sector and noted that the organisational framework was not adequate. They said the Jordan Electric Authority was considered the organising party and accordingly both distribution companies in Amman and Irbid were not capable of operating with a certain degree of independence that would allow them to adopt higher efficiency measures.

The study found that the Telecommunications Corporation was not capable of facing the increasing demands of an economy that was becoming increasingly more information-intensive. In addition, the study said, the quality of the service was not satisfactory. "The corporation's current structure hinders private participation and competition and, being a public institution subject to political effects, it has not achieved the level of efficiency and has not responded to support the development of an effective private sector."

World Bank experts evaluated the transport sector and singled out the Civil Aviation Authority as being effective with good management. They described Royal Jordanian as "now bankrupt," having suffered losses. The experts said that a study had been done to privatise it but there has not been any decision on privatising the airline (Al Aswaj).

THE DEVELOPMENT and Employment Fund (DEF) extended 457 loans totalling JD 2.17 million during the first eight months of this year. The loans were spread over 186 sectors. Amman Governorate had the lion's share of these loans with 165 projects taking JD 911,525. Irbid ranked second, with 96 projects receiving JD 407,420, and Zarqa in third place with 33 projects benefitting from JD 140,605. Other beneficiaries in Balqa, Maan, Karak, Tafleh, Mafragh, Madaba, Ajloun, Jerash and Aqaba, accounting for the rest of the loans. The DEF general manager expects to need JD 3 million to finance the fund's direct operations until the end of this year (Al Dustour).

A TOTAL of 375 companies with an overall JD 58.8 million capital was registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade last month compared to 360 companies capitalised at JD 35.0 million during the same month of last year. The 68.1 per cent increase was attributed to the registration of four public shareholding companies having a total capital of JD 46.5 million. According to the ministry's monthly statistics, a total of 82 companies, capitalised at JD 526,000, was dissolved. The number of companies having foreign partnerships which registered in August was ten companies carrying a JD 2.8 million capital. The foreign equity amount to JD 1.05 million or 50.7 per cent (Al Aswaj).

ACCORDING TO Ministry of Labour sources, 31,000 Syrians were working in Jordan at the end of May this year. The number of Egyptians at the same time was 131,000 workers (Al Dustour).

U.S. business inventory buildup sluggish

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. businesses built up their stocks in July at the slowest pace in seven months, accommodating sluggish sales.

The Commerce Department said Monday that stocks in factories and stores rose in July for the 16th straight month. But the 0.3 per cent gain was the smallest since an identical gain in December and was less than analysts expected.

"This is pretty good news in terms of the economy. It does suggest accumulation is slowing," said James Annable of the First National Bank of Chicago. "But it puts

another nail in the coffin of an interest-rate cut."

Mr. Annable said the Federal Reserve probably welcomes the inventory slowdown, anticipating that consumer demand will be adequate to match factory production. That would weaken arguments for lower interest rates to stimulate demand.

Federal Reserve policymakers meet Sept. 26 to review the economy and decide whether to cut interest rates. They have left them unchanged since July 6 when the Central Bank cut a key rate for the first time in nearly three years.

The stock market retreated sharply Monday, but there was little response to the inventory report. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 32 points by mid-afternoon.

The Commerce Department said inventories totalled a seasonally adjusted \$962.8 billion in July, up from \$960.2 billion.

Stockpiles increased 0.4 per cent in June and 0.5 per cent in May. They have been growing modestly as the economy has slowed to a crawl.

Inventories have not fallen since March 1994. The Commerce Department also said sales fell 1.2 per cent in July after rising 0.7 per cent in June. Sales were 6.6 per cent higher than July 1994.

The government reported last week that retail sales rose 0.6 per cent in August, most of it due to surging car sales and leases as dealers offered sharp discounts to cut stocks.

The increase in July inventories included a 0.3 per cent rise in interest-sensitive durable goods, such as cars and household appliances. Durable-goods inventories are 9 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Stock of nondurable goods such as food and fuel rose 0.2 per cent and were 7 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Sales in July were at a seasonally adjusted \$675 billion, down from \$683 billion the previous month.

Israel Chamber of Commerce: Arab market too small to provide peace bonanza

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli economic ties with the Arab World will cement peace but will not provide Israel with a major market, the head of Israel's Chamber of Commerce said Monday.

"At the end of the day, the real economic dividends for Israel will not come from economic cooperation either with the Arab countries or with the Palestinians. They are very small markets."

"Where the dividends of peace will come from and already came from is from the outside world. The real bonanza of peace is here already as far as the international atmosphere..."

Mr. Gillerman told a news conference that Arab markets were too small to provide a consumer market for Israeli companies in the immediate future.

He said Israel's annual gross national product (GNP) of \$80 billion was larger than the combined GNP of neighbours Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan — which amounts to only \$60 billion. Per capita income in such countries ranged from \$900 to \$1,000 — far below the \$14,000 in Israel, he noted.

Mr. Gillerman said talk of a Middle East common market was therefore premature. "It will take many years, 15

to 20 years, until something like that can realistically be envisioned," he said.

Even so, he said that growing economic ties helped reinforce the peace process and that the success of peace "still depends and will depend ultimately on the economic success of the region."

Trade Minister Micha Harish said the peace process had given investors more confidence of a stable environment and emerging Arab-Israeli economic ties had killed the Arab boycott of Israel.

"We are flooded with business interest from all over the world," Mr. Harish said.

"The Arab boycott has practically collapsed as the result of the Arab-Israeli economic relations. They can't really tell somebody not to trade with Israel when a good part of the Arab World is seen here doing business."

Mr. Harish said he expected the next phase of the Israel-PLO agreement, which

is nearing completion, to spur the Palestinian economy but only to a small degree.

"I see a growth, a slow growth in the beginning, and then it will start to move up," he said.

Israel and the PLO are completing a deal on West Bank self-rule, an extension of the 16-month-old Gaza-Jericho autonomy. Israel also reached a peace agreement with Jordan and established diplomatic relations with Morocco last year.

Court deals blow to Beirut bourse reopening

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Highest Court said on Tuesday the Beirut Stock Exchange committee had failed to consult with the necessary authorities in drafting new internal regulations for the exchange.

In a preliminary opinion on the draft regulations that appeared to rule out the market's planned September 25 reopening, the Council of State ruled that five institutions including the Bank of Lebanon and the Stockbrokers' Association must be consulted on the issue.

"The opinion of these experienced people is essential in light of the professional and technical nature of

bourse operations," the court said.

Beirut Stock Exchange Chairman Gabriel Schnaoui told Reuters last week the market could not reopen without judicial and cabinet approval of the new regulations. He was not immediately available for comment on the court's decision.

The official national news agency said in a late-night report on Monday that Mr. Schnaoui, and the exchange committee told Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri on Monday night the bourse was ready to reopen on September 25 after a 12-year shutdown.

Sudan announces end to subsidies on bread

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — The government announced Tuesday that it no longer will subsidise the price of bread, a staple in the Sudanese diet, and urged farmers to increase wheat production to help reduce costs.

The action — which had been anticipated for some time — came a week after university students and other civilians rioted in Khartoum, in part over deepening economic problems.

Sudan's first vice president, Maj. Gen. Zubair Mohammad Saleh, made the announcement at a meeting of governors in eastern Sudan's Kassala State.

"We are not providing any bread subsidy in the towns," state-run radio. Omdurman quoted him as saying.

Government officials quoted Mr. Saleh as urging the public to help increase agricultural production "particularly that Sudan enjoys vast agri-

cultural areas and abundant rains."

He said the country needs workers in the fields, not in the towns.

The action is part of a government effort to reform the economy and increase national self-reliance.

The government of Khartoum state recently said it would raise the price of bread from 20 Sudanese pounds (3.5 cents) for traditional Arab bread to 30 pounds (5 cents). Some analysts expect it to go still higher.

Khartoum officials cited increases in world prices for wheat.

Khartoum is the nation's largest city, with some 3 million residents.

With meat, vegetable and fuel prices high, the increase for bread will be hard on workers whose salaries average 10,000 Sudanese pounds (\$17) a month or less.

| AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI | | | | | |
| TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179 | | | | | |
| ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 19/09/1995 | | | | | |
| COMPANY'S NAME | NO. OF SHARES TRADED | VALUE TRADED JO | PREV. CLOSING PRICE | NEW CLOSING PRICE | CHANGE |
| ARAB BANK PLC | 340 | 122375 | 225.750 | 227.250 | +1.50 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL BANK | 2600 | 11630 | 4.470 | 4.480 | +0.01 |
| MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK | 61500 | 73800 | 1.200 | 1.200 | 0.00 |
| INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK | 1650 | 4053 | 2.470 | 2.470 | 0.00 |
| THE HOUSING BANK | 1200 | 6660 | 5.550 | 5.550 | 0.00 |
| JORDAN KUNAFT BANK | 767 | 2069 | 2.730 | 2.730 | 0.00 |
| JORDAN GULF BANK | 1454619 | 1471221 | 1.020 | 0.980 | -0.04 |
| ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK | 500 | 1878 | 3.750 | 3.750 | 0.00 |
| JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK | 925 | 3450 | 3.730 | 3.730 | 0.00 |
| BUSINESS BANK | 1250 | 4625 | 3.700 | 3.700 | 0.00 |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK | 7850 | 11027 | 3.930 | 3.810 | -0.12 |
| REDIT ELHOL SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING | 880 | 2916 | 3.330 | 3.430 | +0.10 |
| AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT | 29250 | 25708 | 0.920 | 0.910 | -0.01 |
| PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK | 12198 | 18616 | 1.540 | 1.540 | 0.00 |
| BANKS SECTOR | 1569699 | 1759982 | INDEX NUMBER: 184.19 | CHANGE: +0.34% | |
| JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE | 12900 | 34947 | 2.690 | 2.700 | +0.01 |
| HOLY LAND INSURANCE | 1750 | 4655 | 2.600 | 2.660 | +0.06 |
| INSURANCE SECTOR | 14650 | 39602 | INDEX NUMBER: 139.71 | CHANGE: +0.13% | |
| JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER | 13801 | 22619 | 1.640 | 1.640 | 0.00 |
| NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES | 1500 | 3079 | 2.050 | 2.050 | 0.00 |
| REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT | 2150 | 2258 | 1.050 | 1.050 | 0.00 |
| JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER | 1100 | 1190 | 1.190 | 1.190 | 0.00 |
| UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONDOMINIUM HOTELS | 1600 | 3600 | 2.290 | 2.250 | -0.04 |
| ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION | 3000 | 9390 | 3.130 | 3.130 | 0.00 |
| SARHA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY | 1000 | 1340 | 1.340 | 1.340 | 0.00 |
| SERVICES SECTOR | 24081 | 43557 | INDEX NUMBER: 126.21 | CHANGE: +0.12% | |
| THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES | 2135 | 7738 | 3.620 | 3.630 | +0.01 |
| THE ARAB POTASH | 1350 | 6615 | 4.900 | 4.900 | 0.00 |
| JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY | 811 | 4855 | 5.950 | 5.970 | +0.02 |
| ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING | 8465 | 42315 | 4.980 | 5.010 | +0.03 |
| JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES | 625 | 3729 | 5.950 | 5.970 | +0.02 |
| JORDAN DAIRY | 107 | 257 | 2.400 | 2.400 | 0.00 |
| THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING | 800 | 2001 | 2.500 | 2.510 | +0.01 |
| OPTIMISM & WEAVING | 92 | 1850 | 2.000 | 2.000 | 0.00 |
| RAPIA INDUSTRIES | 10000 | 23000 | 2.280 | 2.300 | +0.02 |
| DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT | 500 | 3700 | 7.400 | 7.400 | 0.00 |
| ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY | 400 | 2135 | 5.380 | 5.350 | -0.03 |
| LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 108250 | 46500 | 4.250 | 4.250 | 0.00 |
| ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING | 6050 | 11237 | 1.820 | 1.820 | 0.00 |
| NATIONAL INDUSTRIES | 18900 | 18717 | 1.050 | 1.050 | 0.00 |
| JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS | 7100 | 9945 | 1.400 | 1.400 | 0.00 |
| ROAD CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS | 1500 | 3220 | 2.110 | 2.150 | +0.04 |
| UNIVERSAL WOODEN INDUSTRIES | 250 | 790 | 3.180 | 3.160 | -0.02 |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO. | 9350 | 18541 | 1.990 | 1.980 | -0.01 |
| JORDAN NEW CARBON COMPANY | 3729 | 6145 | 1.640 | 1.680 | +0.04 |
| INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES | 70550 | 96052 | 1.350 | 1.380 | +0.03 |
| UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRI | 1500 | 3078 | 2.080 | 2.080 | 0.00 |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR | 252052 | 330198 | INDEX NUMBER: 125.03 | CHANGE: +0.09% | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 1860482 | 2173339 | INDEX NUMBER: 154.96 | CHANGE: +0.21% | |
| NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET | | 138527 | | | |
| VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET | | 97871 | | | |

| Financial Markets | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------|---------|---------|-------|
| Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank | | | | | |
| U.S. Dollar in International Markets | | | | | |
| Currency | New York CLOS | Tokyo CLOS | 18/9/95 | 19/9/95 | |
| Sterling Pound | 1.5475 | 1.5479 | | | |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.4825 | 1.4810 | | | |
| Swiss Franc | 1.2055 | 1.2048 | | | |
| French Franc | 5.1050 | 5.1039 | | | |
| Japanese Yen | 103.40 | 103.60 | | | |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2640 | 1.2635 | | | |
| Date: 19/9/1995 | | | | | |
| Currency | 1 MYR | 3 MYR | 6 MYR | 12 MYR | |
| U.S. Dollar | 5.56 | 5.56 | 5.56 | 5.56 | |
| Sterling Pound | 6.50 | 6.43 | 6.43 | 6.43 | |
| Deutsche Mark | 3.90 | 3.87 | 3.87 | 3.90 | |
| Swiss Franc | 2.68 | 2.62 | 2.62 | 2.62 | |
| French Franc | 5.56 | 5.56 | 5.56 | 5.56 | |
| Japanese Yen | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | |
| European Currency Unit | 5.37 | 5.34 | 5.34 | 5.37 | |
| Date: 19/9/1995 | | | | | |
| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm | Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
| Gold | 385.45 | 7.50 | Silver | 5.56 | 0.120 |

| Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--|--|--|
| Date: 19/9/1995 | | | | | |
| Currency | Bid | Offer | | | |
| U.S. Dollar | 0.7150 | 0.7170 | | | |
| Sterling Pound | 1.1047 | 1.1102 | | | |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.4817 | 0.4841 | | | |
| Swiss Franc | 0.5922 | 0.5952 | | | |
| French Franc | 0.1400 | 0.1407 | | | |
| Japanese Yen | 0.0099 | 0.0093 | | | |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.0390 | 0.0392 | | | |
| Swedish Krona | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | | | |
| Italian Lira | 0.0044 | 0.0046 | | | |
| Belgian Franc | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | | | |

| Other Currencies | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|--|--|--|
| Date: 19/9/1995 | | | | | |
| Currency | Bid | Offer | | | |
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.8800 | 1.8930 | | | |
| Lebanese Lira | 0.043580 | 0.044850 | | | |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.1993 | 0.1919 | | | |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 2.2950 | 2.3355 | | | |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.1951 | 0.1964 | | | |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.2000 | 0.2180 | | | |
| Omani Riyal | 1.8440 | 1.8580 | | | |
| UAE Dirham | 0.1941 | 0.1950 | | | |
| Greek Drachma | 0.2815 | 0.3150 | | | |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.4925 | 1.5875 | | | |

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin | | Date: 19/9/1995 |
| <hr/> | | |

Arabian Horse Show begins Sept. 25

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is again the time of the year when horse lovers can have a feast while organisers, headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, are most busy with all the details surrounding the organisation of the country's most prestigious equestrian event — the Arabian Horse Show.

The five-day event opens in Amman Sept. 25 with a big number of international and local entries.

In an interview with the Jordan Times and its sister Arabic daily Al Ra'i, Princess Alia, who heads the Jordanian Arabian Horse Society, said she was encouraged by vast interest in the event on the local scene and hoped everyone would come and enjoy the highest level of equestrian breeding in the Arab World and the region.

"It is gratifying to see that many more people have become involved and are interested in horse breeding. The increasing number of Jordanian entries clearly shows this. We also now have a good local cadre who have amassed a good deal of experience in organising such an event throughout the past years," said the princess, explaining that judges came from abroad only because anyone taking part with an entry could not be allowed to take part in refereeing.

This year judges will come from Great Britain, Poland, Spain, Oman and

Lebanon. Entries are coming from as far away as Australia and the United States.

Held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, the Sixth Arabian Horse Show will be held at the Royal Stables in Hummar and will include a judging course, an endurance race, horse shows and show jumping competitions.

The 43-kilometre-long endurance race will start near the Umayyad desert Castle of Amra and end in Mouaqqar. The event will be concluded with the third Middle East Championships in which horses will be competing for the title of supreme champion.

One of the main aims of the Arabian horse show is to enable horsebreeders to qualify their Arabian horses to take part in international competitions.

Princess Alia, who has been an avid enthusiast of horsebreeding ever since the King gave her a pony when she was just two years old, was a main driving force behind the establishment of the Jordanian Arabian Horse Society.

Based in the Royal Stables, the society's goals include:

- ★ to protect and support purebred horse at home;
- ★ to educate the public and encourage them to obtain Arabian horses;
- ★ to provide guidance and instruction which help in preserving the Arabian horse and improve its com-



Her Royal Highness Princess Alia with her son, Talal, at the Royal Stables (file photo)

ing generations;

★ to arrange for theoretical and practical educational courses concerning the care and breeding of purebred horses;

★ to organise educational courses for Jordanian judges to enable them to participate in international championships;

★ to insure the availability of medication and all health requirements for the

Arabian horse.

Federation prepares for upcoming championships

Jordan Equestrian Federation spokesman Ahmad Abul Ragheb told the Jordan Times that preparations were underway for participation in four upcoming competitions in the coming two months.

The juniors will be taking

part in the Samsung competition in Raqqa, Syria, in October. November will be a busy month as Hani Bisharat will represent Jordan in a competition in Saudi Arabia. Five competitors will then represent Jordan in the Asian Championship in Australia, following which the federation will organise a competition in Aqaba on the occasion of the King's birthday.

NFL files \$300m lawsuit

NEW YORK (R) — National Football League properties filed a \$300 million lawsuit against Texas Stadium, the Dallas Cowboys and their owner Jerry Jones on Monday in response to his sponsorship deals with Nike and Pepsi.

The suit was filed in federal district court in New York after a unanimous vote by the five team officials who comprise the NFL properties executive committee.

The suit asked to order the defendants to stop violating their agreements with NFL properties regarding club marks and logos and to prevent them from signing additional deals that undermine existing NFL sponsorship and licensing contracts.

Jones announced a seven-year sponsorship deal with Nike during the team's opener against the New York Giants on September 4 that will allow the sportswear giant to display its "swoosh" logo in and on Texas Stadium.

In August, he signed a 10-year, \$40 million deal with Pepsi, although the league has a contract with Coca-Cola for exclusive marketing and promotional rights.

"The Cowboys have made it clear through their recent actions and statements that they want to change the basic manner in which NFL properties does business," said NFL properties executive committee chairman Roger Goodell, president of the Minnesota Vikings.

"The effect of the recent ambush Marketing deals signed by Jerry Jones has been to undermine existing NFL properties sponsorships and contracts that were made on behalf of all 30 clubs and to inhibit NFL properties future arrangements."

The day after the announcement of the Nike deal, the NFL said it was in violation of league rules regarding sharing of revenues. NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue granted the Cowboys a hearing and the topic is expected to dominate league meetings beginning Tuesday in Atlanta.

Under the current licensing agreement, 30 teams split evenly the revenues generated by licensing and sponsorship agreements.

Merchandise bearing the Cowboys logo was responsible for about 25 percent of last year's total but generated just two per cent of sales in 1990, when the team was coming off a 1-15 campaign.

"Our sponsors and licensees keep asking us whether we are representing all 30 NFL clubs, or just 29 in competition with the Cowboys," Headrick said.

The deal with Nike called for all Cowboys players and coaches to wear Nike products, even though the company does not have a full agreement with NFL properties. Nike Chairman Philip Knight said his company still is interested in striking a deal with the NFL.

Jeel take on Yarmouk in 2nd division final

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Yarmouk and Al Jeel battle for a place in basketball's first division when they meet in the second division final at the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) court tonight.

Both teams had convincing results in the first round upsetting last year's relegated former first division teams Al Hussein and Homentmen on their way to the final.

The seven participating teams had been divided into two groups. The top two teams in each group qualified to the second round. Hussein and Gazzet Hashem qualified from Group A while leaving Ashrafieh in third place. Meanwhile Al Jeel and Yarmouk qualified from Group B leaving behind Homentmen and Karak.

In the second round Al Yarmouk defeated Al Hussein 105-89 while Al Jeel, the third division champions last year upset Gazzet Hashem 70-49.

As the JBF is trying to reduce the number of teams in the country's top division, Al Yarmouk and Al Jeel will battle for the only slot allotted for promotion. Despite Al Yarmouk's surprising 57-52 loss to newcomers Al Jeel in their first round match they seem to be the favourites in Wednesday's match as their players have gained valuable experience competing in the Under-22 championship as they qualified with the country's top teams — Ahli, Orthodoxi and Jazireh — to the U-22 final round which was played recently.

2nd Division Results:

1st round

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Jeel - Homentmen | 62-48 |
| Yarmouk - Karak | 70-48 |
| Homentmen - Karak | 65-61 |
| Jeel - Yarmouk | 57-52 |
| Yarmouk - Homentmen | 92-61 |
| Jeel - Karak | 63-54 |
| Gazzet Hashem - Ashrafieh | 52-50 |
| Hussein - Ashrafieh | 100-87 |
| Hussein - Gazzet Hashem | 77-39 |

2nd round

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Yarmouk - Hussein | 105-89 |
| Jeel - Gazzet Hashem | 70-49 |

JBF signs cooperation agreement

Meanwhile the Jordan Basketball Federation signed a cooperation agreement with the Italian sports firm Kromos under which the sports equipment manufacturer will supply the JBF and national teams with sports gear and related equipment for the coming five years.

In its meeting, the JBF also decided to cancel Al Aswak basketball tournament and postpone the start of the first division championship until Nov. 15 due to the overbooking of the Sports Palace court. The second division was played on the JBF's court which has outworn basketball boards.

The JBF also announced that the basketball team would take part in the Arab Sports Tournament due to be held in Lebanon in April 1996. The Under-18 team will also play some friendly matches in Qatar next month.

Premier League's 6th week begins today

Faisali, Wihdat clash Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's much-postponed Premier League soccer championship enters its sixth week Wednesday with Al Hussein and Al Qadissieh maintaining their lead atop the 12-team standings.

Al Hussein have an 11 point lead and an unbeaten record in their past five matches. They are favoured to win their upcoming match against winless Sahab to further improve their record.

However the hottest match of the week is titleholders Al Wihdat's clash with Al Faisali. Al Wihdat are now eighth but have two postponed matches, while Al Faisali are sixth. Both Al Wihdat and Al Faisali, the Kingdom's top two teams, ended their matches in scoreless draws against Al Ahli and Al Hussein in the past week.

Al Ramtha next face Al Baqaa today (Wednesday). They lost their first match of the season 1-0 to Al Jazireh last week.

Newcomers Al Russeifa are yet to end their winless streak when they face Al Jazireh Thursday, while in Irbid third-placed Kufroum play second-placed Al Qadissieh. Newcomers Al Jalil who scored their first win 2-1 over Russeifa last week next face winless Al Ahli Friday.

STANDINGS BEFORE 6TH WEEK

| Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Hussein | 5 | 3 | 2 | — | 13 | 3 | 11 |
| Qadissieh | 5 | 3 | 2 | — | 10 | 6 | 11 |
| Kufroum | 5 | 2 | 3 | — | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| Ramtha | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| Baqaa | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| Faisali | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| Jazireh | 4 | 2 | — | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| Wihdat | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Sahab | 5 | — | 4 | — | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Ahli | 5 | — | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Jalil | 5 | 1 | — | 4 | 6 | 14 | 3 |
| Russeifa | 4 | — | — | 4 | 3 | 13 | — |

★ Wihdat have two postponed matches with Jazireh and Russeifa

Atlanta flooded with ticket requests

ATLANTA (R) — Organisers of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics said on Monday that 2.7 million tickets had already been snapped up 10 months ahead of the biggest games in history. Announcing the results of a ticket lottery, Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) official Scott Anderson said there had been 326,000 orders from the United States for the 540 sessions in 26 sports at which tickets were on sale. The average customer responding to the U.S. Sales offer made an order for 17 tickets worth \$1,100, said Anderson. "With these numbers, we've already set a new Olympic record," he told a news conference.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ahli lose to the Philippines

AMMAN (I.T.) — Jordan's basketball champions Al Ahli Tuesday lost their second match at the Asian Champions' Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 86-80 to the Philippine champions. Al Ahli had won their first match 70-62 over Iranian champions Asfahan and will next face Taiwan Wednesday.

Athlete dies in storm tragedy

MONACO (AFP) — Ukrainian Oleg Tverdokhle, winner of the European 400m title in Helsinki last year, died after being struck by lightning, the International Amateur Athletic Federation said on Tuesday. Tverdokhle, 25, was walking near his mother's home in Dnepropetrovsk when he was caught in a storm on Sunday. Attempts to revive him failed. He leaves a wife, Zvetlana, a medalist at the recent World Student Games in Fukuoka, and a four-year-old son.

Kings acquire Marciulionis

SACRAMENTO (R) — The Sacramento Kings acquired Lithuanian guard Sarunas Marciulionis and forward Byron Houston from the Seattle SuperSonics in exchange for veteran centre Frank Brickowski on Monday. The trade was announced hours after the NBA lifted its lockout. Marciulionis will apparently back up All-Star Mitch Richmond at shooting guard for the Kings, unless Richmond is traded, as is widely speculated. Houston will be joining his third team in four years. The 36-year-old Brickowski did not play a regular season game for Seattle last season after suffering a dislocated right shoulder in a preseason contest at Detroit October 27.

Graf's father loses appeal

FRANKFURT (AP) — The father of top women's tennis player Steffi Graf, accused of tax invasion in his management of her winnings, lost an appeal Monday for release from investigative custody. He had offered 15 million marks (\$10.3 million) in bond. A magistrate in Mannheim, where Peter Graf has been in prison since Aug. 3, denied the 22-page request for release from custody and quashing of the warrant that provided for his arrest on grounds that he was a risk for flight to evade prosecution. The magistrate passed the application onto the state court in Mannheim, which was expected to make a decision in a few days. One of the arguments of defence lawyer Peter Slania is that Graf is suffering unusual mental depression because of separation from his family.

Rome discusses 2004 Olympic bid

ROME (AP) — A government committee evaluating a possible bid by Rome for the 2004 Summer Olympics met for the first time Monday. The committee includes the undersecretary of the premier's office, Lamberto Cardia; Rome Mayor Francesco Rutella; Italian Olympic Committee President Mario Pescante and two Italian members of the International Olympic Committee, Primo Nebiolo and Franco Carraro. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Oct. 2. Rome hosted the 1960 Summer Olympic Games. Other cities hoping to win the 2004 games are Beijing and Cape Town, South Africa.

Inter want Ferguson and Cantona

ROME (AFP) — Inter Milan president Massimo Moratti would like to sign Manchester United's Alex Ferguson to replace Ottavio Bianchi as coach, the Corriere dello sport reported Tuesday. Moratti, still keen on buying United's wayward French star Eric Cantona, said Ferguson and Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal were the best in Europe. He was under the impression Ferguson was in conflict with United managing director Martin Edwards over the sale of Paul Ince to Inter.

Dark clouds gathering over Blackburn

BLACKBURN (AFP) — An air of crisis has descended upon Ewood Park, the magnificently renovated home of English champions Blackburn Rovers, amid speculation on Monday that Kenny Dalglish is poised to leave the club.

Blackburn crashed to their fourth defeat in six league games against Liverpool at the weekend after their midweek Champions' League defeat by Spartak Moscow.

Saturday's defeat at Anfield, where last May Rovers celebrated their first championship title in 81 years, was also their eighth in 13 matches.

Dalglish did not attend the Liverpool match as he was at a wedding but there are now widespread rumours that he is about to quit his mysterious back-room role at the club. Assistant manager Tony Parkes attempted to play down the speculation that changes are imminent at the club, saying on Monday:

"We have seen it and read it but, if anything, it could have the reverse effect — it could just fuel our fire."

"We are only six games into the season and there is no great depression on the training ground, believe me."

"It's a matter of us getting our house in order as quickly as possible and the players are just as determined as ever," he added.

Owner Jack Walker will fly in from his home on the island of Jersey to link up with the Blackburn management team at Swindon on Wednesday for the League Cup second round clash.

Pressure is growing on Walker to stop the rot, either by getting his chequebook out for more signings or by making changes to the management.

Walker, a local steel tycoon, has invested tens of millions of pounds in the club he has supported since he was a boy.

Former Liverpool manager Dalglish dramatically quit Liverpool in February 1991, only to drop a division to take over at Blackburn a few months later.

He guided the club to promotion and followed that by securing the Premiership title last season for the first time since 1914.

In the summer he became director of football, with loyal assistant Ray Harford taking charge of team affairs. Blackburn made another switch in their management

strategy last week, with Derek Fazackerley returning from Newcastle to take charge of the coaching because Harford believed the players needed a new voice.

It is this confusing chain of command that has led many to suggest that changes are essential if the club are to bounce back from an atrocious start to the defence of their hard-earned title.

But the problems are not restricted to the management structure with questions being asked about the side's rigid and seemingly one-dimensional style of play.

The widespread view of Blackburn's tactical ingenuity is not charitable.

Defend in numbers, soak up the pressure of the opposition, break out of defence with a long ball to wingers Stuart Ripley or Jason Wilcox — currently injured — and give the ball to England centre — forward Alan Shearer, who will score.

But it was with exactly this approach that Rovers won last season's title in one of the most fiercely competitive leagues in the world. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" is the philosophy that appears to have prevailed over the summer.

Court hearing set to signal end of soccer transfer system

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — Jean-Marc Bosman is set to go down in football history but not for the reasons he dreamed about when he was captaining Belgium's youth team.

At a hearing in the European Court here on Wednesday, the 31-year-old Belgian will find out if his five-year campaign to have European football's multi-million dollar transfer system declared illegal has finally succeeded.

If, as appears likely, a 300-page legal opinion that is due to be presented to the court supports Bosman's case that the system breaches the rules of the European Union's single market, it will pave the way for a drastic shake-up in the way the game is organised throughout Europe.

Not only will it overturn the system under which players are bought and sold, it

will also put an end to restrictions imposed by UEFA, the European football union, and some national leagues on the number of foreign players each team can field.

The report from Carl Otto Tenz, the German Advocate General, does not represent a definitive judgement but it is rare for the judges to overturn the advice of the Advocate General. In a case this sensitive, court sources regard such an outcome as even more unlikely.

"The fact that the document is 300 pages long indicates that they have totally reviewed the system," a source close to the case said on Wednesday.

UEFA accepts that its rules breach the principle of freedom of movement enshrined in the Treaty of Rome but argues they are necessary to prevent the

game being permanently dominated by a cartel of super-rich clubs.

A ruling in favour of Bosman will effectively leave players free to negotiate their own transfers and entitle them to the receipts of their moves.

Clubs would be entitled to receive compensation if a player moved before his contract expired but otherwise they would receive nothing. At a stroke, small clubs which have thrived by nurturing young players and then selling them, will be deprived of their financial lifeblood.

Big clubs too will be affected. Although a ruling in favour of Bosman will make it easier for them to use their financial muscle to spoon off the best talent available, it will also mean that they can no longer count players as assets, wiping millions of dol-

lars off their asset sheets overnight.

Jean-Louis Dupont, Bosman's lawyer, rejects suggestions that a ruling in favour of his client need necessarily promote chaos in the game.

"The transfer system and the foreigners' rule are two sides of the same coin. They are not about the interests of players, they are about the interests of the clubs."

In his submission to the court, Bosman does not argue that the transfer system should be dismantled overnight.

He wants the principle to be accepted and believes that an institution with the power of the European Court should be capable of working out a transitional system that would give the game time to adapt to the rules which apply in every other labour market.

| | | | | | |
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| CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA Isabelle Adjani in La Reine Margot Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45 | CINEMA TEL: 699238 PLAZA Bruce Willis in Die Hard III Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 | CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" Adel Imam & Yusra Birds of the Darkness (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 10:45 CONCORD "2" Police Academy "Mission to Moscow" Shows: 4, 6, 8, 10 | AMMOUN THEATRE TEL: 618274 - 618275 MUSA HIJAZIN "Sumaa" IN Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 pm written & directed by Mohammed Shawaqfeh ***** | Nabil Al Mashini Theatre TEL: 675571 performances will seize starting of today until further notice | Nabil & Hisham's TEL: 625155 AHLAN THEATRE presents (Ahlan Tatbee) Welcome Normalisation Shows start at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman |
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China shrugs off new drug doubts

JAKARTA (AFP) — Chinese competitors will have no problem passing drug tests at the Asian Athletics Championships despite a new doping scandal for the country, a Chinese sports leader said Tuesday.

Du Xijie was stripped of her World Student Games 400m silver medal after failing a test in Fukuoka, Japan, last month, the International University Sports Federation (FISU) announced in Brussels.

But Huang Zhi, secretary general of the Chinese Athletic Association, told AFP he expected no drug problems at the Jakarta championships from Wednesday to Saturday.

"I think we should pass because we are very strict with the doping. We should pass the control," Zhi said. FISU said it had been informed by the Mitsubishi

Kagaka Bio-Clinical laboratories in Tokyo that traces of the stimulant strychnine had been found in Du's sample after the 400m.

Du retains the 200m gold medal she won two days before the 400m because she provided a negative sample for that event.

The failure came at a bad time for China who expect a strong performance at the Asian championships where they are led by Wang Junxia, the world 10,000m record holder, in an attempt to shrug off the drugs nightmare of last year's Asian Games in Hiroshima when 11 Chinese competitors failed tests.

But an athletics official in Beijing denied that the fifth Chinese competitor to be caught using drugs this year proved China had failed to bring drug use under control. "It's an isolated case and

Du Xijie is not a member of the national team," said an official who insisted recently instituted laws cracking down on drug use would be enforced.

Meanwhile, Indonesian business tycoon Mohamad (Bob) Hasan was elected unopposed to a second four-year term as president of the Asian Amateur Athletics Association (AAAA) on Tuesday.

Contenders from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia withdrew their nominations and Hasan commented: "Usually in Asia, unity is the most important thing. That's how we progress."

Hasan said the AAAA was considering offering incentives to winning athletes in an attempt to make the Asian championships more prestigious. "We are following a world-

wide trend. We are following the International Olympic Committee, the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

"In the coming years we need to have some incentive for athletes, but we are still discussing how we can do that," he said.

Prince Khalid Bin Thani Al-Thani of Qatar was elected senior vice president of the AAAA council. The six vice presidents are: Lou Dapeng (China), Hideyuki Sasaki (Japan), Park Jung Ki (Korea), Mohammad Abdullah Bassawi (Saudi Arabia) and Major General Lertratan Ratanavarn (Thailand).

Vladimir Zykov of Kazakhstan was elected as one of eight new individual members. The council was expanded from 14 to 16 members to accommodate the new ex-Russian states.



Argentinian soccer great Diego Maradona (1st row 2nd from right) poses in Paris with players after unveiling plans for a worldwide soccer players union. First row, from left, Eric Cantona, Abdele Pele (3rd), standing, from left, Tomas Brodin, Laurent Blanc (2nd), Rai (3rd), Gianluca Vialli (5th) and George Weah (7th) (AFP photo)

Argentinian soccer great Diego Maradona (1st row 2nd from right) poses in Paris with players after unveiling plans for a worldwide soccer players union. First row, from left, Eric Cantona, Abdele Pele (3rd), standing, from left, Tomas Brodin, Laurent Blanc (2nd), Rai (3rd), Gianluca Vialli (5th) and George Weah (7th) (AFP photo)

Maradona announces creation of World Footballers' Union

PARIS (AP) — Backed by other leading world players, Diego Maradona announced the launch of an international soccer players' union Monday to promote and safeguard players' rights.

Maradona met with 14 of the sport's top players, including Eric Cantona of France, Rai of Brazil, Liberian George Weah and Italian Gianluca Vialli. Together the players represented 11 countries.

The Argentine star said the union's objective was to counterbalance the power of the sport's governing body, FIFA.

"Our goal is not to battle with anyone," Maradona told a news conference. "It is only to unite the players."

The idea was first mentioned at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico by Maradona and his teammate Jorge Valdano, now coach of Real Madrid.

The players united in protest against the scheduling of matches in the hottest hours of the day, along with other grievances.

Maradona has been banned twice for 15 months by FIFA in the last four years for failing drug tests. His latest ban, for using banned stimulants at the 1994 World Cup finals, ends this month.

At a news conference announcing the birth of the international players' union, Maradona said it would be based in Paris, would be open to all professional players and would cooperate with all existing unions.

Cantona, the suspended Manchester United star, said the players at the meeting unanimously elected Maradona president of the new union.

The French striker also said he hoped the new union would permit more of a dialogue between players and the game's administrators.

"They need us, and we need them. We hope that from now on, whenever there is an important decision affecting the sport, affecting spectators, affecting us, that it goes through us. Soccer is beautiful, it's not war," he said.

Cantona is currently serving a worldwide ban for his kung-fu kick on a Crystal Palace fan last season. He is eligible to return to action with Manchester United on Oct. 1.

Brazilian player Rai echoed Cantona's remarks. "We are an important part of soccer. Our goal is to help the game, not to fight, and to help players. But it's only our first day. We have a lot to do," he said.

Liberian's George Weah, who plays for AC Milan, said he was at the meeting as a representative of Africa, and that he hoped the union would help smooth conditions such as match scheduling which he called "disadvantageous" to African teams.

"It is necessary for us all to have the same rights," he said.

Belgium's Michel Preud'homme of Lisbon Benfica said the next meeting was not yet scheduled but would address the issue of the free circulation of players within Europe. "The most important thing was for us to show solidarity. Now the real work begins," he said.

Union must wait for FIFA approval

FOOTBALL'S GOVERNING body FIFA said Tuesday it had not yet officially recognised the new International Professional Footballers' Association set up by Diego Maradona and other stars in Paris on Monday.

"We have not received any document concerning this new association," said a FIFA spokesman in Zurich.

He said FIFA wanted to know more about the structure and objectives of the association before making a decision, especially as players were already represented at different levels of the administration.



World chess champion Garry Kasparov of Russia watches his opponent Viswanathan Anand of India at the beginning of their fifth game of the World Chess Championship in New York (AFP photo)

Kasparov and Anand draw fifth game in a row

NEW YORK (AP) — The fifth game of the Professional Chess Association world championship, refereed out to a draw Monday when challenger Viswanathan Anand avoided an opening for a razor-sharp attack against title-holder Garry Kasparov.

After five matches, all drawn, the score in the 20-game contest being held at the 107th floor of the World Trade Centre is tied at 2.5 points apiece.

"He's definitely playing safe, that's for sure," Kasparov, who played with the black pieces, said after the game. But Kasparov didn't find the slow pace unusual. He said that playing chess was "not a sprint like 100-metres. It's a long, long run."

The winner of the marathon contest would be the first to score 10.5 points.

Each win scores a point and a draw, a half-point. In the event of a 10-10 tie, Kasparov retains his world-champion title, held since 1985.

Australian grandmaster Ian Rogers said the quiet start to the contest from two players renowned for their wild attacking games was disappointing chess fans.

"They're bailing out. If they get no advantage point, it's a pity," said Rogers. "It's not really great value for spectators at the moment, but as soon as someone wins a game, this match should liven up considerably."

When play began, the players rapidly followed the first moves of Thursday's third game until Kasparov played a new move with his fourteenth.

In a balanced position with attacking chances for both sides, Anand, playing white,

thought for more than half an hour. He finally rejected a pawn thrust in the centre of the board, that experts said would be dangerous for Kasparov.

Kasparov quickly counter-attacked on the queenside and Anand was forced to move his pieces defensively to keep his chances equal.

In the final position, Kasparov is ahead a knight, but Anand can capture that piece, leading to an equal endgame.

The sixth game in the match is scheduled with Kasparov playing with the advantage of white. The winner of the contest receives \$1 million, the loser \$500,000.

Kasparov, 32, of Russia, has held the world championship since 1985. Anand, 25, is from Madras, India.

FIFA issues soccer rankings

ZURICH (AFP) — FIFA football rankings published on Tuesday (August position in brackets):

| | points |
|------------------|--------|
| Brazil | 68.42 |
| Spain (3) | 59.69 |
| Germany (4) | 59.28 |
| Norway (2) | 58.86 |
| Italy (6) | 58.10 |
| Argentina (5) | 57.80 |
| Denmark | 57.51 |
| Russia | 56.75 |
| Mexico (10) | 54.93 |
| Switzerland (11) | 54.41 |
| Bulgaria (12) | 54.40 |
| Portugal (9) | 54.17 |
| Colombia | 53.53 |
| Romania | 53.14 |
| Sweden | 52.84 |
| France (18) | 52.83 |
| Netherlands | 51.25 |
| USA (19) | 50.09 |
| Czech Rep (27) | 49.32 |
| Ireland (16) | 49.26 |
| Egypt | 48.95 |
| Uruguay (20) | 48.68 |
| Zambia (26) | 47.57 |
| Scotland (23) | 47.56 |
| Ghana (24) | 47.53 |
| England (22) | 47.04 |
| Tunisia (25) | 46.83 |
| Poland | 46.75 |
| Turkey (31) | 46.43 |
| Greece | 46.30 |

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Baseballs' Major League results

| American League | | | | National League | | | |
|-----------------|----|-------------|--------------|-----------------|----|------------|----|
| Kansas City | 16 | Minnesota | 7 (1st game) | Cincinnati | 7 | Montreal | 4 |
| Minnesota | 10 | Kansas City | 4 (2nd game) | Philadelphia | 13 | Florida | 10 |
| Milwaukee | 6 | Boston | 1 | St. Louis | 4 | Pittsburgh | 2 |
| Baltimore | 6 | Detroit | 2 | Atlanta | 7 | New York | 1 |
| New York | 9 | Toronto | 2 | Houston | 3 | Chicago | 1 |
| Cleveland | 11 | Chicago | 1 | Colorado | 5 | San Diego | 1 |
| Oakland | 4 | California | 0 | | | | |
| Seattle | 8 | Texas | 1 | | | | |

Algerians face sanctions at All Africa Games

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe (AFP) — Sanctions are to be taken against Algeria's football team after the final whistle blew in their All Africa Games match against Guinea.

"It was disgraceful," said an official of the African Football Confederation (AFC) on Tuesday. "We will be building a meeting to decide what sanctions to take against Algeria."

The instant Zimbabwean referee Felix Tangwarima signalled the end of the Monday game, which Algeria lost 2-0 and failed to reach the semi-final, the Algerian players began attacking the Guinea team.

Fists and boots were flying and it took police three minutes to break up the fights and clear the pitch.

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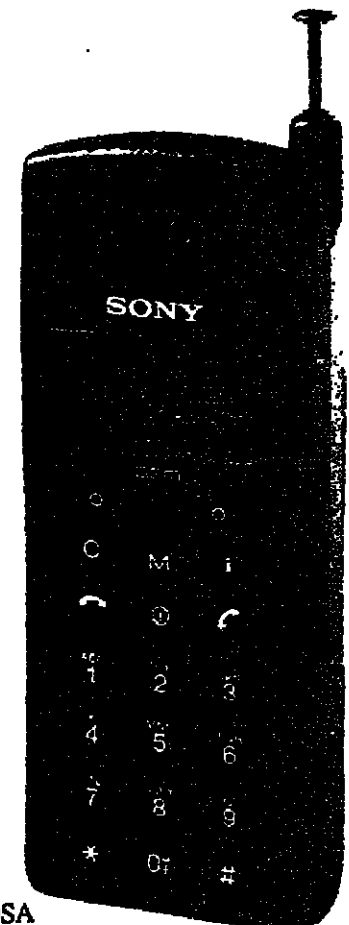
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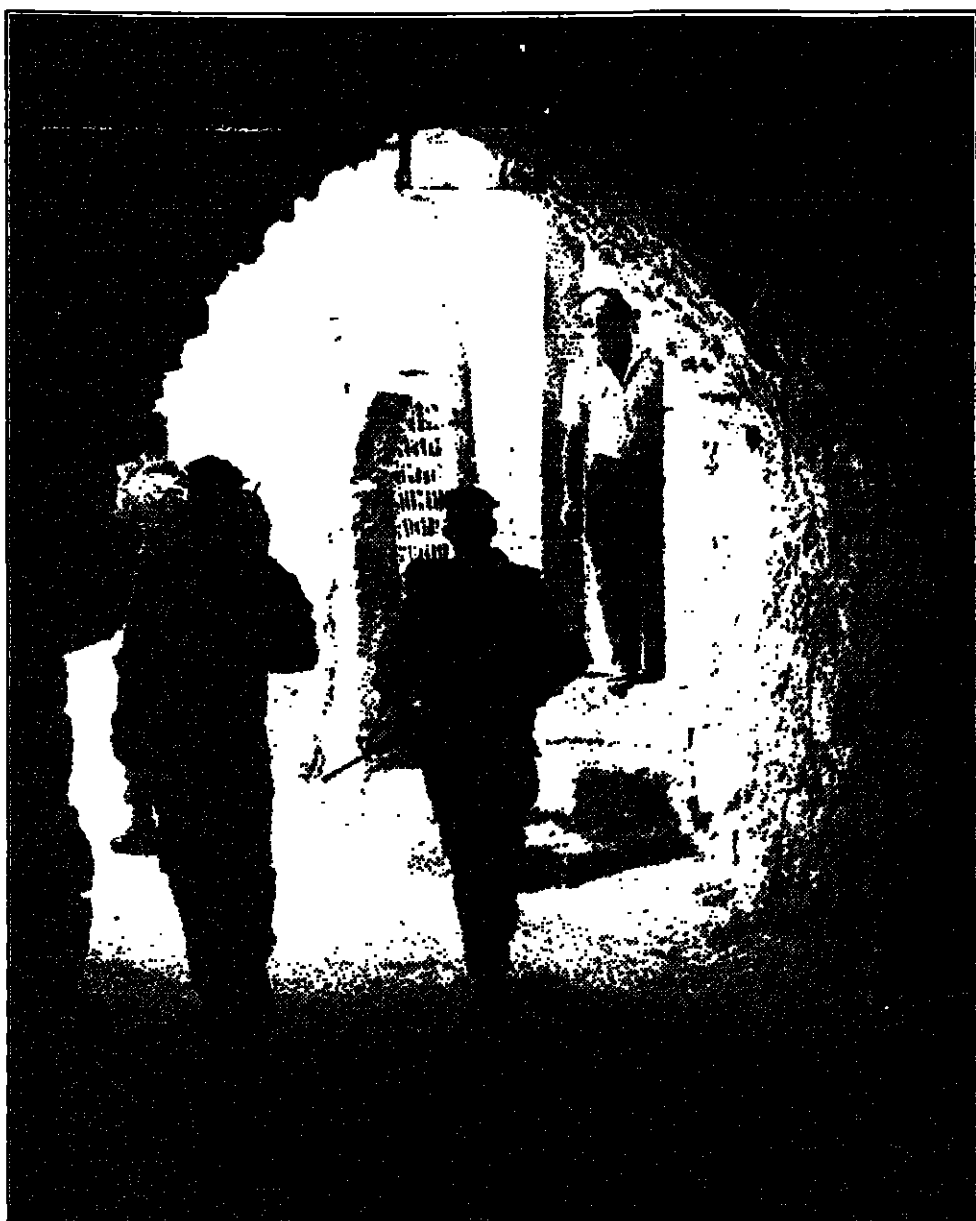
Technical data :-

| | |
|---------|--|
| Volume | 220cm |
| Weight | 280g |
| Power | GSM Class 4 (2 Watt) |
| Battery | NIMH - Accu Talktime-1.7 hrs Standby- approx. 18 hrs |
| Display | 2/4 Rows, Backlit 97 x 33 Pixels Graphic LCD |
| Card | SIM |

Optional Accessories Car Kit High QN 200 HFK
Car Kit Low QN-200 CSI
Desktop Standard QN 231 BC
Battery Pack (small) QN 200 BP
Battery Pack (big) QN 202 BP
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TENSION: A Palestinian looks out of his doorway in Hebron as two Israeli soldiers walk by on patrol. Tension has been rising in the occupied West Bank town, with clashes between Palestinian residents and Jewish settlers as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators wrangled over the future of the town, where 400 settlers live amid 120,000 Palestinians (see page one) (AFP photo)

Hariri: Easing of U.S. ban is positive, but not enough

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on Tuesday welcomed the easing of an eight-year-old U.S. ban on travel to Lebanon and urged that the restrictions be lifted altogether.

President Bill Clinton eased the ban Monday, allowing U.S. airlines to arrange travel to Beirut and freeing U.S. citizens to fly there with written approval.

"It's good, but not good enough," Mr. Hariri said Tuesday in an interview with a Baltimore Sun correspondent.

"I want everything to be lifted," he said. "I don't see any reason why not."

The Reagan administration imposed the ban in 1985, in the final phase of Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, amid attacks during the 1975-90 civil war in which 270 Americans were killed in suicide bombings and 17 kidnapped to be held as hostages.

Under the restrictions, travellers cannot use American passports when visiting Lebanon. U.S. airlines are banned from flying to Beirut

and even from issuing tickets listing the Lebanese capital as a final destination.

Middle East Airlines, Lebanon's flag carrier, also is forbidden from flying to U.S. cities.

Since the war, security has improved in Lebanon and Beirut is no longer a haven for bombers, hijackers and hostage-takers.

Foreigners have begun trickling back to Beirut in the last two years, lured by multimillion-dollar reconstruction projects.

Tens of thousands of Americans, most of them dual nationals, have violated the ban. They were issued visas on separate sheets to avoid detection by U.S. authorities.

The State Department lifted the ticketing restrictions earlier this summer.

Mr. Clinton's order permits U.S. carriers to make arrangements with foreign airlines for flights to and from Beirut for passengers who are not U.S. citizens and for Americans who have obtained written permission

from the State Department. It does not allow U.S. airlines to set up direct flights.

In a memorandum dated Sept. 15, the president instructed Transportation Secretary Federico Peña to make the changes in the travel ban "as soon as is practical."

"U.S. carriers will not be allowed to go into Lebanon, but this allows for ticketing of non U.S. citizens and U.S. citizens with approval," a White House official said.

The ban was imposed July 1, 1985 in retaliation for the hijacking of a TWA jet by Lebanese gunmen, who held 39 U.S. nationals hostage for 17 days in return for the release by Israel of hundreds of political prisoners.

A U.S. Navy diver was killed at the outset of the hijacking.

In his directive dated Friday, President Clinton said the travel ban imposed July 1, 1985, was being amended to allow U.S. air carriers to route passengers to Lebanon on non-U.S. airlines via third countries.

Zeroual to run for presidency

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual, the quiet career soldier installed by the military 20 months ago, confirmed Tuesday he would run for president of a country ravaged more than ever by civil war.

His long-expected candidacy made him the 19th — and according to the official press the favoured — contender in a vote the country's insurgents have not only pledged to boycott but to thwart altogether.

The 54-year-old retired general was a behind-the-scenes figure when he was named in January, 1994 to take over as head of state for what was to be a three-year transitional period. He vowed to ease tension through dialogue.

But this man with the silver hair and a salt-and-pepper mustache surprised many less than a year later, in October, when he called for a presidential vote before the end of 1995.

Mr. Zeroual's goal when he took over was to rally Islamic leaders into political dialogue.

But at the same time he stepped up the crackdown on armed groups fighting the regime since 1992 — the year when turmoil broke loose as the military-backed government cancelled legislative elections the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was set to win.

The violence has raged on

and the death toll after three years now stands at more than 30,000 people.

Mr. Zeroual is often seen as a product of the Algerian army. He signed up in the National Liberation Army at the age of 16 and is a veteran of the 1954-62 war of independence from France.

He advocates a professional army and in his own long career as officer has commanded three Algerian military regions — Tamansrasset in the extreme south in 1982, Bechar on the Moroccan border in 1984 and Constantine in the east in 1987.

He has also commanded two of the army's training schools, including the Cherchel Academy, seen as the nursery for the officer elite.

A deputy chief of staff and commander of Algerian group forces, he clashed in late 1989 with then-President Chadli Bendjedid over plans for a military shake-up.

Mr. Zeroual quit the army and was named ambassador to Romania, but left what he saw as a "consolation post" after less than a year to get away from politics and spent time in his hometown of Batna.

In July 1993 he emerged from three years in the wilderness and was named — to general surprise — to succeed Major-General Khaled Nezzar to the key Defence Ministry post.

Gen. Nezzar had widely been considered the strongman of the five-man pres-



Liamine Zeroual

idential college that has ruled since Mr. Bendjedid resigned as president on Jan. 11, 1992, shortly before the cancellation of the second round of general election FIS was poised to win.

Mr. Zeroual's appointment was seen as the army's way of inciting the politicians to reform the management of the civil service.

When less than a year later he was named Algeria's sixth president, he was touted by the press as the man "to break with the ways of the old regime" with a "mission to save Algeria from disaster."

Married with three children, Mr. Zeroual's army colleagues portray him as reserved, even shy, but a man of principle. But his critics reproach what they see as too much prudence and a lack of charisma.

Though his first year in power saw many measures to appease militants — including the release of many Islamic leaders — he has so far failed to make any headway with dialogue.

Jordan court freezes ex-KOTC aide's assets

KUWAIT (R) — A court in Jordan has frozen the assets of a Jordanian former executive at the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) pending the outcome of his trial in Kuwait on embezzlement charges, lawyers said on Tuesday.

The Jordanian court on Monday decided to freeze all assets of Nassim Mohsen, including shares, real estate and other properties, upon a request from KOTC, one lawyer told Reuters.

Mr. Mohsen, a former finance executive at KOTC, is one of four people who went on trial in a criminal court in Kuwait in 1994 on charges of making illegal profits, embezzlement and forging documents in the course of their work at KOTC.

"Mohsen can appeal against the ruling within one week. The court's decision can be reversed only when Kuwaiti courts pass a final ruling or upon request from the company," one said.

A fifth person, former Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, is charged with making illegal profits from KOTC. He and another defendant, Hassan Qabazard, have denied the charges. The other defendants have neither appeared for trial nor

made pleas of guilt or innocence.

Mr. Mohsen is believed to be in Jordan. Former KOTC Chairman Abdul Fatah Al Bader, another defendant, left Kuwait in early 1993 and is believed to be living in London. Another of the defendants, Briton Timothy Stafford, is living in Australia.

A Kuwaiti criminal court looking into the case will hold a hearing on Oct. 17.

Earlier this month a British court ordered Mr. Bader to make an interim relief payment of \$7 million in damages to state-owned KOTC from a frozen personal Swiss bank account pending the trial's outcome.

KOTC is expected to request the Swiss courts to unfreeze the account and make the payment.

Swiss and British courts in 1994 froze accounts held by Mr. Bader in Switzerland and Britain at the request of KOTC's present management, which says the accounts contain money gained illegally from alleged embezzlement of at least \$100 million.

KOTC, one of the five largest oil tanker companies in the world, operates a fleet that transports crude oil.

Ali Mahdi declares 'war' against Aided

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — A Somali faction declared war on Tuesday against self-styled president Mohammad Farah Aided and his forces, demanding their eradication for capturing the southwestern city of Baidoa.

In a related development, a minister in General Aided's government, which is not internationally recognised, complained about an official request to allow 20 international aid workers detained in Baidoa to leave.

Diplomats said they saw the seizure of Baidoa on Sunday by Gen. Aided as a bid to expand his authority as Somali president, an appointment unrecognised by both rivals and foreign powers (see page 2).

The Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) led by Ali Mahdi Mohammad said after an emergency meeting it held Gen. Aided responsible for the consequences of renewed war but did not say how he would be wiped out.

The SSA called for the to-

tal "eradication" of Gen. Aided and "his bandits" and urged all Somalis to take decisive action in defending them against "the aggression of General Aided."

The north Mogadishu-based SSA, the strongest clan network ranged against Gen. Aided, whose power base is south Mogadishu, told its militiamen to be united and comply with their orders.

One aid official dismissed the declaration as "largely irrelevant" and noted Gen. Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA) and the SSA were already at war in Mogadishu but no winner had emerged.

Mr. Ali Mahdi gave his arch-enemy Aided a 24-hour ultimatum on Monday to pull forces out of Baidoa or face war.

There was no word on Tuesday whether Mr. Ali Mahdi, who heads the largest clan network opposing Gen. Aided, had begun moving forces towards Baidoa, 240 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu.

Column 8

Lover denies trying to poison professor

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (R) — A jilted lover denied attempting to murder a leading plant scientist in what New Zealand media have dubbed the "poisoned professor" case.

Vicky Calder, 46, a molecular biologist, said "definitely not guilty" when asked how she pleaded to the charge of attempting to murder Professor David Lloyd on Dec. 12, 1992. She is accused of attempted murder of Prof. Lloyd, 58, by administering a neurotoxic poison, Acrylamide Monomer, which left him blind and paralysed. The prosecution alleged Dr. Calder was devastated when Prof. Lloyd said he wanted to end their relationship because he had fallen in love with another woman.

Algerian cheats death in leap from British train

LONDON (R) — An Algerian man who was being deported from Britain leapt from a speeding train and apparently survived and made an amazing escape, police said.

Bonito Cobbola jumped from a London to Brussels express travelling Saturday night through the Kent countryside at 45 mph (72 kph). Police said they combed the track expecting to find him dead or injured but drew a blank. British officials put Mr. Cobbola on the non-stop channel tunnel train but did not accompany him because doors of the train are sealed while it is moving.

Prince to end California reign

LOS ANGELES (R) — The artist formerly known as Prince may soon be the artist who formerly lived in ritzy Beverly Hills. The entertainer, who changed his name to an unpronounceable double-gender love symbol, has put his 7,700-square-foot (715 square-metre) Beverly Hills home up for sale at \$3.5 million, the Los Angeles Times reported.

After returning from a tour of Britain, the funk-rock superstar listed his home because "he's just through at the moment with being out here," the Times said, citing an unnamed source.

The 37-year-old singer-songwriter has owned the gated estate for three years.

Britain's 1st electronic-tag criminal jailed

LONDON (R) — The first British criminal to be released with an electronic identification leg tag was sent back to jail for six months after breaking his home curfew 26 times in less than a month.

Clive Barratt, 29, who was given his stay-at-home sentence in July for shoplifting, blamed isolation and media harassment for his curfew-busting. Barratt, the first criminal tagged in a government pilot scheme based on similar U.S. projects, was jailed for committing three more shoplifting offences.

Fleiss' father gets probation for money laundering

LOS ANGELES (R) — The father of "Hollywood Madam" Heidi Fleiss was sentenced to three years probation and 625 hours of community service for helping to hide hundreds of thousands of dollars earned by his daughter's call-girl ring.

Dr. Paul Fleiss, a Beverly Hills pediatrician who entered a plea bargain with authorities, was also fined \$50,000 and sentenced to one day in jail. Without a plea bargain, a sentence of several years in prison could have been imposed on Dr. Fleiss, who admitted to setting up bank accounts in his name to receive money illegally earned from his daughter's prostitution business.

IAF calls on Mubarak to call off Brotherhood trial, free detainees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party Tuesday appealed to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to stop a trial of nearly 50 members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and to free those in detention.

"The media have reported that 50 leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood are facing a military court trial for no crime they committed," said a statement by the IAF's members in Parliament.

The people on trial include former parliament members, members of professional associations, merchants, teachers, engineers and Al Azhar scholars who "are quite known for their wisdom and their honesty and initiative in charity activities," the statement said.

It said that various denominations and communities in Egypt — both Muslim and Christian — as well as leftists, nationalists and Islamists have expressed their condemnation of the trial and are actually defending the Muslim Brotherhood members in court.

"The IAF deputies, acting out of their love for Egypt, their keenness on safeguarding its future and out of their deep faith in the right of all citizens to exercise their rights of expression to serve the nation within the laws, view the trials with deep concern because these trials do not serve the interests of the people of Egypt or the country's stability and its future," the statement said.

Asserting that the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt "has always abided by the principles of wisdom and constructive dialogue," the statement said: "It is the right of this group to contribute to the construction of Egypt through political activity conducted within the law. Depriving the group of the right of free expression constitutes an infringement on its basic human rights and also an encroachment on the Egyptian people's rights as it deprives the nation of the benefit of the Muslim Brotherhood's efforts to alleviate the Egyptian people's sufferings. It is also an encroachment on

democracy."

The statement said that the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt "has, for the past several decades, proved that it renounces violence and proved that its members work for Egypt and the Egyptian people with no discrimination or bigotry. But the group has constantly been subjected to unjust treatment and attempts to distort its impeccable image."

"Such unjust treatment of the Muslim Brotherhood members can only fuel extremism and cause an embarrassment to the advocates of wisdom and gradual reform."

The statement said: "Such trials can only drive people into despair over the prospect of employing peaceful means to bring about reform and would lead to security problems which in turn could deprive Egypt of the right investment climate needed to end its economic plight."

The statement called on President Hosni Mubarak to immediately release the prisoners.

Mestiri renews bid, but Kabul sees war

KABUL (AP) — The United Nations' special envoy to Afghanistan arrived in Kabul on Tuesday to restart peace talks and try to stop short a fresh round of fighting in the already war-ravaged city.

Mahmoud Mestiri, former Tunisian foreign minister, arrived aboard a charter aircraft at Kabul airport and was whisked away to meet senior Afghan officials, including President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood.

"I am going to meet with Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Masood to be in touch with the leaders," Mr. Mestiri told reporters upon his arrival in Kabul.

The Afghan government has been urging Mr. Mestiri to investigate foreign intervention in the country's bitter conflict. The Rabbani government claims Pakistan is directly aiding and fighting alongside Kabul's chief rival, the Taliban.

"Mr. Mestiri should put cutting foreign interference at the top of his agenda," Foreign Minister Najibullah Lefrai said. "We hope he will spend more time in Afghanistan."

In Pakistan, Foreign Secretary Najibullah Sheikh called Afghanistan's accusation "absurd" and threatened to close the Pakistan-based offices of Mr. Rabbani's Jamiat-e-Islami faction.

For 14 years Afghanistan's rebels waged their war against Soviet soldiers and Moscow-backed governments from Pakistan. The 10 main factions still maintain offices in Pakistan, where at least 1.5 million Afghan refugees still live.

Mr. Rabbani's government has been critical of Mr. Mestiri's past attempts at brokering a peace agreement. But Mr. Mestiri said he is returning to Kabul after more than

six months with fresh ideas.

"I have some ideas," Mr. Mestiri said. "New ideas for a new situation. I'm just trying to understand what's going on."

Mr. Mestiri's brief visit comes amid growing fears that a key rival warring faction was preparing to launch a massive offensive against Kabul.

The U.N. had earlier been trying to broker a peaceful solution to Afghanistan's bitter conflict by proposing a power sharing plan among the factional leaders.

The plan, which called for Mr. Rabbani's resignation, fell apart when the president earlier this year refused to step down.

The Rabbani government, however, maintains it will abide by a U.N. plan if it can offer assurances of success.

Mr. Lefrai said.

"We have always accepted" this when Mestiri or anyone else has offered a reasonable plan," Mr. Lefrai said.

Meanwhile Kabul's forces have been preparing for a battle which could bring the fight back to Kabul, which has been peaceful for about six months.

"The front lines have been fortified and the Taliban will not be able to infiltrate inside Kabul," Defence Ministry spokesman known only as Abdullah told the Associated Press.

The government, however, is still stinging from a series of devastating losses, including the capture by Taliban fighters of the key Western city of Herat and neighbouring Shindand air base.

In Maidan Shahr, about 40 kilometres from Kabul, the Taliban commanders insist they are ready to take the capital.

In March, Mr. Rabbani's forces repelled a Taliban attack on Kabul.

No Bashir-Tourabi split, minister says

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's foreign minister denied on Tuesday there was a split in the government between military leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir and influential Islamist leader Hassan Al Tourabi.

Cabinet changes last month, widely interpreted as a move against Dr. Tourabi's hardline supporters, were in fact designed to broaden the appeal of Gen. Bashir's government. Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohammad Taha told a news conference in Cairo.

"Once again I would like to reiterate that the makeup of the present government in Khartoum is not in collision between the military and the National Islamic Front (NIF), as people put it," he added.

Mr. Taha, in Cairo to attend an Arab League foreign ministers meeting which opens on Wednesday, was answering questions on reports of conflict between Gen. Bashir and Dr. Tourabi influential mastermind of Sudan's Islamic trend.

The London newspaper the Observer and several Arab publications have said Mr. Bashir and Dr. Tourabi are close to war and are supplying their men with arms for the imminent showdown.

Analysts interpreted Gen. Bashir's government shakeup and dismissal last month of the interior minister, police commander and heads of security — all closely allied to Dr. Tourabi — as an attempt to clip the wings of Dr. Tourabi's Islamists.

They said Gen. Bashir was blaming Dr. Tourabi for Sudan's international isolation, caused by his ambitions to export his radical blend of Islam and his support for radical groups.

"Vis-a-vis the conflict be-

tween President Bashir and the NIF, this is an incorrect and inaccurate postulation of the position," the minister said.

"President Bashir is heading a government which comprises many representatives of previous political factions and the policies the government is pursuing are policies which have been drafted and accepted by national congresses which comprise all the Sudanese viewpoints and not only those of the NIF."

Mr. Taha dismissed the reports, saying the change in the government did not mean a change in the spirit of the regime.

"It all depends on how you read. Changes have always been there. If they move somebody from his post this does not necessarily mean an indication of a change in the spirit of a system."

"What President Bashir is trying to do is to reinforce his policy, which started in 1989, of building or establishing a political set-up in Sudan which accommodates all Sudanese."

Mr. Taha said demonstrations in Khartoum last week over the arrest of three students were "highly exaggerated and blown out of proportion." Three people died in the protests.

"The security situation in Khartoum is now quiet. It has never been on the verge of chaos or getting out of control of the government... it is now fully under control," he said.

Mr. Taha, whose country is locked in a serious row with Egypt over its alleged involvement in an attempt to kill President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June, was not allowed by Egyptian security authorities to give the news conference at a Cairo hotel as scheduled, his adviser said.